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# BACKWARD GLANCES

*Reminiscences of an Old New-Yorker*

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By THOS. FLOYD-JONES

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1914

NEW YORK

BROOKLYN

LONG ISLAND

563



1746023



*W. C. Harrison*



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15 May 15 - L.C. (12a)





This Book is dedicated by the writer  
to his lifelong friend,  
GEORGE F. JOHNSON  
of New York



## PREFACE

The Author of this production, before putting it before the public, would most respectfully beg leave to say that in the waning months of the year 1907, Mr. Sidney S. Toman, the enterprising editor of that very lively weekly periodical "The Trotter and Pacer," which is a paper edited in New York devoted principally to the exploiting of that grand animal the Trotting Horse, approached the writer with the urgent request that he would dictate an article to be produced in his Holiday Number, which had been projected with the purpose of making it the very best one in the history of the paper. The write-up to be reminiscences of about half a century ago, as relating to New York, Brooklyn, and vicinity.

After due deliberation, it was not deemed advisable to take up the task on account of the limited time granted before going to press, as it was too short to produce any writing that would be of any credit to the producers or interest to the many readers of his production.

Subsequently the new year of 1908 came in, and during the author's spare moments, he penned a series of recollections, with the heading, "Looking Backward—Reminiscences of an Old New-Yorker." The article was really most general, as it described almost everything as I saw them in this vicinity over fifty years ago. It might be called a hodgepodge, too broad for a horse paper, and too much horse, theatrical and sporting matter to be given to any of the various monthly magazines, whose interest did not lie in this direction. Mature thought came into play, and the decision arrived at was that "The Trotter and Pacer" was the proper source to promulgate the article, which duly appeared in the weekly editions of April 16th, 23d, 30th, and May 7th, 1908, and the final disposal proved to be a most successful



and happy one, as the paper was perused and the production was most favorably commended by many people, old New-Yorkers and Brooklynites, who were not particularly interested in field sports, but eager to observe general accounts of many, many years passed by, and in which a large number of them were interested in some way. A Chicago paper, as also a New York monthly, referred to it, both of which were devoted to Music and the Drama, with the hope that it would appear in book shape, so that it would be seen by more of the general public and be kept as a book of reference. At the same time, they deplored the abrupt ending of the series, so in accord with the desires of many lifelong friends, I have taken up this work and put it in book shape, having secured the nucleus of same from the original article, and added matter in several instances, also inserting new memories as I progressed, and have changed the nomenclature to the new one of "Backward Glances." This without any apologies to Edward Bellamy's Ghost, which cognomen amply expresses all contained therein. Further, it may not look well for the writer to apologize when putting out the foregoing, but he really feels for his own gratification, that the reader must be apprised that the book will likely appear a shade crude in the eyes of a college graduate; but look charitably upon the efforts of merely a layman, who has done the best he knew how, to let the present generation gain knowledge of how affairs looked in days of long ago, so as to compare them with the great, successful, and magnificent ones of the present age in our great City of New York.

THOS. FLOYD-JONES.

New York, 1914.





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The author at Battery Park ruminating in 1914. Aspect of same at that time. Elevated railroad obscured eastern view, barge office and the aquarium the southern, derricks, shafting, tackling, boiler houses, etc., etc.

Entrance of new tunnel to Brooklyn, noise of machinery combined made strong contrast, peaceful spot of years ago.

Aspect of same locality in 1860. It was then enclosed with an iron fence. Trees extended over the entire park. The breathing spot and promenade for residents of the lower wards, used largely by nurses and children. Central Park being opened 1856-7. Prospect Park, Brooklyn, 1860. Last slaver, the bark "Cora" at anchor in the Bay. The distant hills of Staten Island observed. Arrival of the steamship "Great Eastern," the largest vessel ever built, on her voyage to New York, June 28, 1860. The Bay crowded with crafts as her escort. The Battery holding thousands of citizens to welcome her. Her second arrival was at Flushing Bay, Long Island, August 27, 1862.

Old Castle Williams on Governors Island, with parapet crowned with guns. Flag hauled down at setting of the sun from flagstaff on same.

Castle Garden, formerly Castle Clinton, abandoned as a fort in 1820-22, used for the reception of Lafayette in 1824, President Andrew Jackson, 1832. President John Tyler, 1843, and Kossuth, 1851. The American Institute held





their fairs there in 1846 to 1850. Awards of silver cups to Major William Jones of Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, for best blood and brood mares. Names of mares, Emily Glentworth and Young Dove. Present owners of the cups. Used as a concert hall by Jenny Lind in 1850 under the management of Phineas T. Barnum. First reserved seat bought by John N. Genin, the hatter, for \$250. Used as an emigrant depot in 1855. Last reception there was to Cyrus W. Field in 1858.

Atlantic Cable celebration, the cable being laid by the U. S. man of war steamship "Niagara." It proving a failure (the subsequent one laid by the Great Eastern). Procession of citizens, militia, and societies, to the Crystal Palace. Mr. Field presented with freedom of the city by a document in a gold box. Night procession of the New York Volunteer Fire Department. Fire works at City Hall. Cupola of same destroyed by fire. Battery Park increased by filling in, obliterating the wooden bridge from the main land to Castle Garden, used for a parade ground by the State Militia.

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New York, subsequently Fourth Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, New York. New York, New Haven and Hartford Depot, Fourth Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, New York. Round Houses, Fourth Avenue, Thirty-third—Thirty-fourth Streets, New York. Cattle yards, Robinson Street, Sixth Street and Third Avenue, and Forty-fourth Street and Fourth Avenue.

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Burton's Theatre, Chambers Street. American News Company site. William Burton as Toodles. Mrs. Russell, subsequently Mrs. John Hoey. A. T. Stewart and Company, retail dry goods, New York. A. T. Stewart and his residences. Jones's Claremont, Roadhouse, New York.

To an amiable child. Liester Pollock. Solitary grave Claremont. Kings Bridge Road, Kings Bridge Hotel on Isle of Manhattan.

Elmer Ellsworth of Chicago. Ellsworth Zouaves. New York firemen. Willard's Hotel, Washington, D. C., 1861. Fields Building, Washington, D. C., 1861, fire. Washington Fire Department, 1861. Killing of Ellsworth by shooting at Alexandria, Virginia, by James W. Jackson, proprietor of Marshall House. Jackson shot by Sergeant Brownell. Succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Noah L. Farnum as Colonel of Regiment of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. New York, Fire Department Volunteers. Fifth Ward Hotel, West Broadway and Franklin Street. D. Devlin and Company, Broadway and Warren Street, clothing.

Beach pneumatic Railroad tunnel, 1869, on Broadway and Warren Street. Removed 1913. Atlantic Street tunnel, Brooklyn, Long Island Railroad owners.

Chemical Bank, New York. Organizers of bank and officers of same. Irving House, Broadway and Chambers Street. Jenny Lind there in 1850. Adams and Colt murder at Irving House. New York Hospital location. Old Broadway Theatre. Plays at same. Actors and actresses there. Williams, Stevens and Williams Picture store. Goslings restaurant. Meallio's hat store. Hotels on Broadway. W. C. Langley of Bay Ridge, Long Island. Ice Cream saloons. Grand saloons. Bars.





English chop and ale houses. "The Tenderloin." Palace Garden, Sixth Avenue and Fourteenth Street. Greenwich Savings Bank, J. & R. Lamb. Names of piano manufacturers in New York. Names of sheet music houses in New York. Names of stationery trade houses in New York. Jardines and Roosevelts church organ makers, New York.

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called Broadway Varieties. They played in "Black Eyed Susan" and other pieces. Odd Fellows Hall, Grand, corner Centre Street, Board of Education Building, Elm, corner of Grand Street.

### CHAPTER 8.....Pp. 59—84

The Broadway House, St. Nicholas Hotel, and Prescott House all on Broadway. Celebrated jewelry houses. Wallacks Theatre, Broadway and Broome Street. Names of the stock company actors and actresses. Others appeared here on stated occasions viz. Dion Boucicault and wife, Agnes Robertson, Matilda Heron, Robert Stoepel, leader of orchestra. Barney Williams (Bernard Flaherty) Mrs. Barney Williams, James W. Wallack, John E. Owens, Billy Florence and wife in various comedies. James Bevins, who married a sister of Mrs. Williams, and Mrs. Florence named Pray, kept a holstelry near Centerville Track, Long Island. He was later the bell ringer of the Jefferson Market Fire Tower. Metropolitan Hotel. Prince of Wales, Duke of Newcastle, Lord Lyons, Fernando Wood, Mayor.

Revenue cutter, Harriet Lane, named after President James Buchanan's niece. Prince Albert's brother George's arrival in New York. Ball at Academy of Music. The Duke Alexis of Russia in 1871 at launching of the "Grand Admiral" man of war built for the Russian Navy. Reception to him at Brooklyn Navy Yard, given by Rear Admiral Melancthon Smith, who was in command of the Mississippi with Farragut at New Orleans, George Dewey being his first officer. Niblos Garden in rear of Metropolitan Hotel on Broadway.



Charlotte Cushman as Meg Merrilies, and as Romeo in "Romeo and Juliet." Mrs. John Wood, Maggie Mitchell, Edwin Forrest, E. L. Davenport, Dan Harkins, Margaret Mather, Lydia Thompson, Pauline Markam and Bonfanti the great dancer, all appeared on the stage of this theatre. "The Black Crook" and "White Fawn" were played here for many months under the management of Jarrett and Palmer. Melville, Stone, Sebastian, Dan Rice, Nat Austin, of the circus, as also The Ravels, in pantomime appeared here. Little All Right, a Japanese acrobat, was also quite a feature at this house.

The great Stanwix Hall tragedy, shooting of Bill Poole, a pugilist, in 1855, and his death, his funeral. "I die a true American" were his last words. Lafayette Hall on Broadway. Captain Shumway's Company quarters Seventh Regiment, also of Light Guard, Tompkins Blues. The City Guard on Broadway also. The Old Guard. Lafayette Hall, quarters of trotting horse owners. Vauxhall Garden. Wagon makers. Corporal Thompson's old road house at Twenty-third Street and Broadway, subsequent site of Franconi's Hippodrome. Chariot racing. Fifth Avenue Hotel. Finley's race track. Bloomingdale, Strykers Bay, Jones' Claremont Hotel and Burnhams road house, as also The Abby at One Hundred and Second Street and the North River.

Residences of Fernando Wood, Jerry and Neil Bryant, Hosea Perkins, Lawson N. Fuller, Benjamin Wood. Lady Suffolk. Race Course on Hempstead Plains in 1665, called Salisbury Plains. This track was called New Market. Location near Hyde Park, or Isle of Trees, Long Island.





Track at Jamaica, Long Island, around Beaver Pond, another on Lispenard Meadows in Greenwich Village (old Ninth Ward) also a track on the Bowery at First Street and one at Newtown, Long Island. The Centerville Track laid out in 1825. Albany Girl feat in 1847. Attempted and failure. Lady Suffolk foaled in 1833 at Smithtown, Long Island. Pedigree, owners, and her career. Names of prominent competitors. Reference to Gipsy, Night Hawk (Jupiter) Lady Emma and Pearsall. The Union course between East New York and Jamaica, Long Island, and the Centerville Course. The Huntington, Babylon, Massapequa and Washington Course in Hempstead Plains all on Long Island. Huckleberry frolics at the Hempstead Track. Description of same. "Licker up" beverages. Hewletts Hotel and St. Georges Church, Hempstead. Remsens and Cale Weeks Hotel at Jamaica, Long Island. The Hamilton half mile track, Ninety-third Street and Columbus Avenue, New York. The Red House half mile race track, Second Avenue and One Hundred and Fifth Street, and one on Harlem Lane near the river at 148th Street. Grey Eagle and Hiram Woodruff his trainer and horses he trotted against. The Grey Eagle episode at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, in 1852. Dicken's character Nicholas Nickleby and Whackford Squeers, R. I. P. Major William Jones' wager in 1818 with Colonel Bond of Baltimore, Maryland, of \$1,000—to produce a horse to trot a mile in harness under three minutes. The horse named was Boston Pony. The race was on the turnpike west of Jamaica, Long Island. It was won by the Major. Boston Blue called the Slate Colored American. Sorrel mare Gipsy and stallion Jupi-





ter. Rules and Regulations adopted for the Union Course, Long Island, March 25, 1848, at the house of Green and Wessel, New York. Successor to Lady Suffolk, bobtailed mare, Flora Temple. Where foaled, and pedigree. Union, Centerville and Fashion Tracks on Long Island. Location and description of Fashion Race Track, 1856. Names of horses pitted against Flora Temple, she vanquishing all of them. She was owned at different times by George E. Perrin, John C. Perrin a Mr. Borum and Lew Pettee, driven by Hiram Woodruff, Warren Peabody and Darius Tallman, subsequently owned by James Irving and Mr. James D. McMann conjointly. This partnership dissolved, the latter buying out Irving's interest. She was later sold to Mr. McDonald of Baltimore, being in charge of Mr. McMann. Names of celebrated horses and road drivers. Flora's race with Medoc and against Ethan Allen and Running Mate about the year 1863, on the Union Course, Long Island, the team beating her. The same team met her at the Fashion Track and won the first heat, being distanced in the second. In the next race the team beat her. In 1864 Dexter appeared on the turf. His pedigree and owner. Names of his competitors. Lady Thorne and her pedigree and owner, Mr. James McMann. She beat Dexter in one race and Dexter beat her in three races. Lady Emma and her races. Stage lines on Long Island, Amityville to Brooklyn and Hempstead to Brooklyn. Names of owners of stage lines and driver of Amityville stage. Montgomery Queen stages in Brooklyn. Phil Grogan and Dominick Colgan's oyster houses in Brooklyn. English ale and chop houses in Brooklyn. Hotels in Fulton Street, Brooklyn. Billiard



rooms in same and members of the Excelsior Baseball Club "Nine".

Mr. Chadwick of the Stars and Reporter. His death in 1908. Elysian Fields, Hoboken. Names of New York Baseball Clubs.

Rough house on Hoboken Ferry boats. Dickey Pierce and the O'Briens, members of the Atlantic Baseball Club, Brooklyn.

CHAPTER 9.....Pp. 85—96

Three and four mile heats in Lady Suffolk's day. Endurance performance of pair of stage horses in 1841. Register of house at Montauk Point, Long Island, kept by P. T. Gould. Copied by William Jones Weeks, 1847. Mr. Gould being keeper of the light house at that time. Match for \$600 between Isaac Willets from Hempstead and Gilbert B. Miller of Brooklyn. Mr. Willets bet Mr. Miller that he could drive a pair of mares belonging to John and Joseph Curtis, from Brooklyn to Montauk Point in twenty-four hours to a wagon weighing 300 pounds, being 140 miles by the post road in the month of March, 1841. Full account of the performance. Mr. Willets the winner. Account of the trotting match from the Long Island Star, published in Brooklyn under date of March 10, 1841. Account of same from the American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine, Volume 15, issued in August, 1844.

Additional members of the Excelsior Baseball Club of Brooklyn on their great "Nine." Rivalry between the Excelsiors and Atlantics. The Empires of New York and Athletics of Philadelphia. James Creighton's style of pitching the ball. Dan and Tom Dean's billiard room, as also Suydams, in Brooklyn. General Thomas



Dakin, a baseball player, as also Honorable John Shields.

The Park Theatre on Fulton Street, Brooklyn, erected by Gabriel Harrison, actor. Dorlon and Schafer's oyster saloon in Fulton Market, New York. Frederick B. Conway, subsequent owner of the Park Theatre, with his wife. Her name was Sarah Crocker, a sister of Mrs. Bowers, actress, and mother of Minnie Conway, wife of Levy the cornetist. Frank Conway, an Englishman, played at Broadway Theatre, New York. Hooley's Minstrels in Brooklyn, Archie Hughes, an end man. Dime Savings Bank, Brooklyn, was on the site of former Minstrel Hall. Hooley's Theatre, Chicago. His treasurer from Hempstead, Long Island. Academy of Music, Brooklyn, erected 1860-61. Sanitary Fair during the war. First night of a great European songstress under the management of Henry E. Abbey there. Full account of the affair, and how it was arranged beforehand.

Reference to the passing at Albany by the Legislature of a bill for the paid fire department in New York in 1865, and Brooklyn, 1868-69, thereby abolishing the volunteer system. The last row of the New York Volunteer Department in 1865. The experience of the writer in going to a fire in Brooklyn in 1866. Names of track drivers residing in New York, Brooklyn and Queens County, Long Island.

Match race Prospero and Honest Dutchman for \$5,000 a side in 1873. Dutchman shut out the first heat, was at Prospect Park Race Track which was built about 1863. Match race between Judge Fullerton, chestnut gelding, and the mare, American Girl, on Prospect Track, Brooklyn, in 1863, which was won by the mare. The Deerfoot half





mile track, Brooklyn, bought by Mr. John Shults. Names of celebrated Brooklyn road horses and road drivers. Uncle Dan Willets, the veteran. The filly Tempest by Hambletonian, dam Coquette by Jupiter, subsequently called Nettie Plummer. Article, by a letter referring to the pedigree of the filly Tempest, as traced back through her dam Coquette, and grand dam Suffolk Maid, to Old Henry, the competitor of Eclipse in 1823 on the Union Course, Long Island. Race won by Eclipse. Full account of same.

CHAPTER 10.....Pp. 97—III

The Revere House, Broadway corner of Houston Street. Charles Coe, proprietor. Fleetwood in its declining days. The four mares, Emma C., Daisy, Margaret O. and Maud. Reddy the Blacksmith saloon on Broadway and Houston Street. Allen brothers, Mart and "The," ran the St. Bernard Hotel. Tony Pastor as the clown. Harry Hill's Public House and dance hall, Crosby Street corner of Houston. English ale houses, Cliftons, House of Lords, House of Commons, in same locality. St. Thomas's Church, corner Broadway and Houston Street. Henry Maillard's ice cream and candy place, next door. Florence's restaurant in basement, southwest corner Broadway and Houston Street. Headquarters of prize fighters. Heenan, Sayres, Coburn, Morrissey, Mulligan and Mathews referred to. John C. Heenan's fight with Sayres in England. Heenan and Morrissey sparred at Hoymes' Theatre on the Bowery. Morrissey defeated Heenan in Canada. Heenan sparred at the New Bowery Theatre with Aaron Jones and Murphy the Irish Giant. Sam Collier and Billy Edwards heads of the light



weight class. Eating saloon and barroom of George and Jerry Thomas, Broadway near Twenty-second Street. Cartoons by Thomas Nast great attraction there. The Lotus Club possess most of these pictures.

Beginning of the cheap concert rooms. Canterbury Hall, formerly Mozart Hall and the Melodeon (Chinese assembly rooms) were the first of this kind. Koster & Bial's was very prominent of the same description at Twenty-third Street and Sixth Avenue.

Barmore & McCollough's ice cream saloon, Broadway near Eighth Street. Mr. Barmore organizer of the Knickerbocker Ice Company.

The Sinclair House, southeast corner of Broadway and Eighth Street.

The great Burdell murder case in 1857 at 31 Bond Street, a boarding house kept by Mrs. Cunningham. Doctor Harvey Burdell, Mr. Eckles, Mr. Snodgrass and Dan Ullman boarded there. Frank Leslie's Illustrated with harrowing wood cuts. Mrs. Cunningham and her bogus baby, a fraud discovered, left for California where she died.

Laura Keene's new theatre No. 624 Broadway. Laura Keene as Camille also in "The American Cousin." Sothern as Lord Dundreary and Brother Sam. Holland, Couldock. Reverend Dr. Sabine mentioned, as also the Church of the Transfiguration, Reverend Dr. Houghton "The Little Church Around the Corner." Joseph Jefferson as the American in "The American Cousin." John T. Raymond and Lotta also appeared here. Laura Keene at Ford's Theatre, Washington, D. C., in "The American Cousin," April 15, 1865, where and when the president, Abraham Lincoln, was shot by Wilkes Booth.



John Duff leased Laura Keenes Theatre and called it the Olympic, Augustin Daly his son-in-law, the playwright acting as his agent, assisted by James W. Morrissey. Mrs. John Wood appeared here in 1866. The pantomime "Humpty Dumpty" with George L. Fox as the clown occupied this theatre in 1868 for an indefinite period. "Under the Gas Light" with C. F. Parsloe in the cast had a long run here. "The Railroad Scene" was a great feature. "The Sea of Ice" or "A Maiden's Prayer" met with quite a success on the stage of this house, George Jordan being in the cast. It was spectacular and grand. While George L. Fox was at the Olympic he put on the drama "Richelieu" as a burlesque, he taking the part of the cardinal. At this temple of the muses, George Jones (The Count Johannes) appeared in Shakesperian characters, being greeted at every performance with cat calls and pelted with onions, apples, turnips and even eggs, the house crowded at every show. In 1856 a new theatre was erected at 677 Broadway, former site of Tripler Hall, Metropolitan Theatre, later called Laura Keenes Varieties, under this name only for a short time, succeeded by William Burton from Chambers Street acting in many of his old characters and in the new comedy "Brigham Young" a satire on the sect known as Mormons or latter day saints. The bedroom scene described. On Burton's retirement, this theatre's name was changed from Burtons Theatre to the Winter Garden. Charles Mathews, an English actor, appeared here. Row with Dolly Davenport, a cow hide whip playing a part. Attentions of the former to the wife of the latter was the cause of the quarrel. She was a beautiful woman and appeared in "The Naiad Queen" a spec-





tacular piece. English opera was presented here. This theatre was in the rear of the Lafarge House, now the Broadway Central Hotel, called the Grand Central at one time. Scene of the shooting of James Fisk, Jr., January 6, 1872, by Edward S. Stokes. Burton's country home at Glen Cove, Long Island. Harry Placide at Babylon, Long Island. Dion Boucicault and his wife, Agnes Robertson, at the Winter Garden in "The Octaroon." "Midsummers Nights Dream," a spectacular piece, was put on the stage of this theatre, Helen Western appearing in this, as also "The Naiad Queen." Kate Bateman, in "Evangeline" and "Leah." Charlotte Cushman as Lady MacBeth, supported by Studley. Charles Mathews, Mark Smith, Mrs. John Wood and John Brougham in "Pocahontas" all appeared here, as also in 1864 Edwin, John Wilkes and Junius Brutus Booth in "Julius Caesar." This theatre was destroyed by fire March 23, 1867, and was not rebuilt. William R. Blake, Harry Placide, Barney Williams, William J. Florence, William E. Burton, Fred B. Conway and his wife Sarah Crocker, John Brougham, Charles M. Walcott, Lester Wallack and his father, James W. Wallack, Harry Montague and Laura Keene are all interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. The Academy of Music, New York, on East Fourteenth Street and Irving Place, was opened October 2, 1854. LaGrange, Brignoli, Adelina Patti, Carlotta Patti, Piccolomini, Lucca, Clara Louise, Kellogg, Parepa Rosa, Emma Abbott, Campanini, Del Puenti, Ravelle, Christine Nilson and Gurster all sang at this house in Italian opera. It was destroyed by fire in 1868 and was rebuilt. Obliteration of old theatres down town, viz: Barnums at Ann Street,





Burtens in Chambers Street, National in Chatham, Broadway on Broadway above Pearl Street, and Wallacks on Broadway near Broome Street, by fire, or to make way for business houses. Niblos, Olympic, and the minstrel shows, Bryants, Christys and Buckleys Serenaders, remained on their old sites for some years. Wallacks moved to Broadway and Thirteenth Street about 1861. His old theatre was then called the Broadway, Theodore Morse Wallacks; Manager. Harry Montague, an English actor, at Wallacks Thirteenth Street house 1871-72. Barney Williams as lessee of the Broadway (Wallacks old theatre). Billy Florence appeared here with his wife in the comedy "Caste," he taking the character in the role of George D'Alroy, his wife portraying that of Polly. William Davidge as Eccles, Mrs. F. S. Chanfrau as Esther Eccles, Mrs. G. H. Gilbert as the Marquise. In 1868 Mr. Wallack produced this comedy at his Broadway and Thirteenth Street house. Charles Fisher as D'Alroy, J. H. Stoddart as Eccles, Rose Eytinge as Esther, Effie Germon as Polly and Emily Mestayer as the Marquise. Osmond Tearle, John Howson, Rose Coghlan, Ada Dyas and Madalene Henriques appeared at this theatre. The great piece "Rosedale" was put on the boards of this house in 1863, Oct. 5, Lester Wallack as Elliot Grey, supported by Mrs. John Hoey, Mary Gannon, Effie Germon and Mrs. Vernon. John Gilbert as the Gipsy, Charles Fisher also in the cast. Graphic account of the play with the song Lord Bateman was a Noble Lord. The Grand Opera House built by Samuel Pike, opened 1868, then called Pikes Opera House, acquired by James Fisk, Jr., 1869, now owned by Gould family. The Fifth Avenue Theatre in Twenty-



fourth Street opened 1867 by Christys Minstrels. Subsequently used by Leffingwell, John Brougham and Augustin Daly. "Frou, Frou," "Man and Wife," "Divorce," "Hazel Kirke," "The Rajah" were all played here. Burned down in 1873 and rebuilt. Steele McKay manager for some time. Theatre at 728 Broadway erected by A. T. Stewart on site of Unitarian Church. Lucy Rushton opened it, then by the Worrell Sisters who called it the New York Theatre. Mark Smith and Dan Harkins managed it for some time. Later Harrigan and Hart took it and met with great success. Called it Theatre Comique, subsequently called Streets of Old London. Later taken by Daly and called Dalys New Fifth Avenue Theatre. "Alixé," "New Magdalene," and "Under the Gaslight" played here. Hope Chapel altered to a theatre. Davenport Brothers and Signor Blitz, Kelly and Leon, and Lena Edwards managed it at different times. The Union Square Theatre erected by Sheridan Shook in 1871. Managed later by A. M. Palmer. "Two orphans" first put on at this house. Later played at the Brooklyn Theatre 1876. Theatre burned with great loss of lives. The Park Theatre, Broadway and Twenty-first Street opened 1882, destroyed by fire before the curtain went up. Lillie Langtry was the star. Theatre rebuilt and managed by Henry E. Abbey. Oakey Hall, formerly Mayor of New York, appeared here in a play written by himself. Booth's Theatre was at Twenty-third Street and Sixth Avenue. Barret, Bangs Levick, and E. L. Davenport played at this house in 1876 Julius Caesar. Thalberg at hall on Broadway near Metropolitan Hotel (Pianist). New York Hotel, St. Bartholomew's Church, Mercantile Library, Clinton Hall, Astor Place



riots, McCready, Forrest, actors, Parrish Mansion, Doctor John Gray, Philip Hene House and Hope Chapel referred to. Hoop skirts and Peeping Tom's. Brevoort House, Eighth Street and Fifth Avenue. Elevated road, first one erected. The Grecian Bend referred to.

CHAPTER II.....Pp. 112—116

Prominent men met on Broadway. John Jacob Astor, Peter Cooper, Samuel J. Tilden, Frank Copcut, Dr. Townsend from Albany, also a quack doctor in Puritan garb, and Mark Twain, Josh Billings and Jeemes Pipes lecturers, and others noted in different ways, viz: Tom Hyer, prize fighter, Brown the Sexton of Grace Church, The Blue Man, The Lime Kiln Man, The Old Straw Man, The Irish Dwarf, Little Mac, and Marcus Cicero Stanley.

The Penniman Mansion (Maison Doree). Roosevelt, Evarts, Grinnell, Drew and Goelet residences. Dr. Cheever's church, Spingler Institute, Tiffany store, Spingler House, Union Square Park, Washington Monument, Stuyvesant pear tree, the new Parrish residence, Dr. Moffatt residence, Fenian headquarters, The Everett House, Mrs. Haight's house. Gordon S. Burnham's, August Belmont's, Robert L. Stuart's, Francis B. Cutting's and Lenox's homes are referred to, also St. Germain Hotel, Flat Iron Building, Mr. George Irving, Washington Irving, Dr. Townsend, sarsaparilla fame, and the Townsend house, Stewart Marble Palace, Knickerbocker Trust Company, Rutgers School, Roman Catholic Cathedral, mentioned. Snow flake marble from Pleasantville, New York. Colored Orphan Asylum fire, also Draft Riot fires. The Nathan murder. Residences of William Butler Duncan, Al-







fred B. Darling, Mrs. Paran Stevens, Francis Skiddy, Hendricks Family, Mr. Schenck, Peter Moller, John Jacob Astor, John H. Harbeck, Frank Work, and the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

CHAPTER 12.....Pp. 117—120

Fleetwood Park, Morrissania, MacCombs' Dam Bridge, Morris Manor place. Officer Isaacs at Bridge. Celebrated horses. John R. Gentry, Star Pointer, Phallas, Majolica, Phil Thompson, Lucy Gernent, Jay Eye See, Edward, Dick Swiveler, Maud S., Aldine, Early Rose, St. Julian, Rarus, Edwin Forest, Santa Claus, Joe Patchen, Guy, Steve Maxwell, Sunol, Startle, and Great Eastern all trotted on this track. Some owned by Robert Bonner, William H. Vanderbilt, Frank Work, Nathan Strauss and J. I. Case of Racine, Wisconsin. Accident to Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt. John Murphy and Charley Green. Sleighing carnivals by New York and Brooklyn horsemen on Long Island and Bloomingdale road. Carl Burrs at Comac, Long Island, Burnhams, The Abbey, Jones's Claremont, Bertholfs, Freemans, Atlantic Hotel, Florence's, Gabe Case's, Judge Smith's, Sibbon's, mentioned, also John I. Sned-icor's road house, East New York, and Jim Remsen's and Cale Weeks' at Jamaica. Sleigh ride from Love Lane, Brooklyn. Death as their driver. A sad ending to merriment.

CHAPTER 13.....Pp. 121—127

The draft riots in New York. Fires, robbery and murder prevailed. Quelled by the Regulars. The State Militia absent and police powerless. Weeks-ville refuge for negroes. The Orange Riots on the 12th of July. Battle of the Boyne. The brown stone rear of the New York City Hall. Breath-



ing spots in New York, Bowling Green, Battery Park, Central Park, City Hall Park, St. John's Park, Washington Park, Union Square Park, Gramercy Park, Stuyvesant Park, Madison Square Park, Reservoir Park, Hamilton Park, Tompkins' Park, and Jones's Woods, all on Manhattan Island.

Grand summer homes for New Yorkers on the Hudson River, Long Island, Staten Island, Newport, Rhode Island, New Rochelle and on the Sound shore, and summer hotels at New Rochelle, Glen Cove, Far Rockaway, New Brighton, Bath Beach, Fire Island, Babylon, Islip, Bergen Point, Passaic, West Point, Watch Hill, Sharon, Cooperstown, Lake George, Lenox, Saratoga, Ballston, Long Branch, Cape May, Old Point Comfort. Hotels at Long Branch and steamboats. Atlantic Highlands and Lake Mahopac included.

Newspapers of New York and Brooklyn. Sad ending of Horace Greeley.

Short streets in New York. Names of the principal markets.

CHAPTER 14.....	Pp. 128—130
Relative to old grave yards. Disposal of garbage. Military organizations in New York.	

CHAPTERS 15-16.....	Pp. 131—138
Churches of most all denominations and names of many rectors. Locations of churches in New York and Brooklyn. Principal libraries in New York. (16) Millionaires and near millionaires. The Goddess of Liberty on Bedloes Island, Castle Williams on Governors Island, the Custom House, the Produce Exchange, the Field Building, the Bowling Green Building, the Standard Oil Build-	



ing, the four bridges to Brooklyn, ten bridges across the Harlem River, grand apartment houses and hotels meet your vision at this time, 1914.

# CONTENTS OF APPENDIX A.....Pp. 139—156

## "MERMAN" "MERMAID" "MEMOIRS"

Full account of the New York gunning and fishing sportsmen, sojourning at "Scio," Jim Smith's old hotel on the south side of Long Island in 1840, describing the unique bar within its portals, and their temporary life in the fishermen's hut on Fire Island. Legendary tales told by various ones of the party to the assembly, to pass away the evening hours. Ned Locus' story of the mermaid of Brick House Brook, and his unsuccessful pursuit of her down the stream. Daniel's Merman off Wanza's Flat.

Location of bridges, old and new, in Queens County. Turnpike roads of the locality, as also the Massapequa Race Track and the three pound trout.

Graphic reference to one of the Baymen (a native) in his handling of a boat at a trying moment to affect a desired result and how it culminated.

The Loquacious peddler, of North Carolina sweet potatoes and Long Island clams described in a realistic manner.

The lone graveyard on the highway depicted.

The duel of Philip Hamilton with George L. Eacker at Weehawken in 1802, Hamilton being shot, and his death. Prominent resident of New York and Long Island, who acted as his second on the unfortunate occasion.

# CONTENTS OF APPENDIX B.....Pp. 157—175

## STOOLS AND BATTERIES

### SENTIMENT OF J. CYPRESS, JR., 1839

Shooting wild ducks in a swamp by fowlers. Through their experience in the salt waters of the Great South Bay of Long Island, having faced what damage percussion caps, bat-





teries, and patent cartridges in the hands of skillful gunners have effected, wounded and crippled, the birds have gone to the fresh water brooks to recuperate, only to run into the clutches of destroyers to their well being there, by other means, in contra supposition to what they had expected in their retreat.

Biddleize and Swartwoutize, a similitude with the banking experiences of Biddle of Bank of United States, Philadelphia, 1829 and out of existence in 1836, including the many duels (shootings) of the Swartwouts in 1802.

Encomium on Jim Smith, and the Sportsman's Hotel at the pious neighbourhood of Jerusalem Lane and the South Turnpike. Babylon, the mother of miscellaneous people, is nine miles further east.

Experiences encountered setting out stools, getting in the frail batteries, and preparing for the wholesale slaughter of all and any species of wild birds.

The April fool joke of Jim Smith, on Mr. Cypress, by representing a stool which he had "planted" as a real bird, and Mr. Cypress' act and discomfiture.

Bill enacted by the Legislature of New York at Albany in 1839-40, being offered by General Jones (Henry O. Floyd-Jones) State Senator forbidding the use of batteries in the Great South Bay, Long Island, for killing birds, and the penalty if the law is violated.

Names of soldiers on a muster roll of Militia at Fort Green 1814 from Jerusalem South, Long Island.

Copy of original patent to inhabitants of Town of Oyster Bay and copy of three original patents to inhabitants of Huntington, Long Island, by Colonial Governors Nicolls and Dongan, signed by S. Bayard, Colonial Dep. Secretary.

Suit of Town of Oyster Bay against Jackson and Jones families as to ownership of meadow lands in Great South Bay, Long Island, in 1771. Decided by Supreme Court of the Colony in favor of the latter.

Places covered by these patents in Towns of Oyster Bay and Huntington.





## CHAPTER ONE

**O**BSERVING on many occasions in the periodicals of the present age, quite a number of very interesting articles descriptive of old-time places, scenes, and events, and of individuals who were in many ways connected with same in New York, Brooklyn, and vicinity, as also in those devoted principally to the chronicling of trotting horses and their races, theatres, actors, and matters in general which I have greatly enjoyed perusing, they bringing back to me many pleasant memories,—of what I saw personally and heard from others,—has led me to conjecture whether the limited knowledge possessed by me and indited would prove as interesting to the every-day reader as those penned by others have been to me.

Replying to this interrogatory in the affirmative, as a layman I will endeavor in a plain way to give you my recollection of about fifty years ago, describing places, events, individuals, and celebrated trotting horses, also including a reference to the actors and theatres of that time in New York and vicinity, as well as the old volunteer fire system of New York and Brooklyn.

It is characteristic of mankind, as we all know, to have a strong inclination to glance backward and compare in a most marked manner the scenes of early days with those of the present, and to many of our eyes slightly dimming. It is in many cases to the disadvantage of the latter, but we must not flatter ourselves in this particular. Progress is the watchword of our time, and we must all concede that great strides have taken place in every branch of the world's industry, and nowhere has it been exemplified more than in our old home, New York.

While seated on one of the rustic benches in the Battery Park at five o'clock in the afternoon, a few days since, my



memory reverted to about half a century ago, and the strong comparison held up to my vision of that time with the present, as to the aspect of that locality, I can with all truth observe. In this case it was amazingly in favor of the former.

As I now see it, a long elevated structure obscured the eastern view, the Barge Office and the Aquarium the southern, while derricks, shafting, tackling, boiler houses, etc., etc., coupled with the entrance to the new tunnel to Brooklyn, and the deafening noise of machinery and the elevated road combined, made the strongest kind of contrast with that of the peaceful spot of many years ago. It was then inclosed with an iron fence, large trees extended over the entire park, which was the breathing spot and promenade for the residents of the lower wards. Central Park was under way, but had not yet been opened for general use. It was opened in 1856-1857, being followed by Prospect Park, Brooklyn, in 1860.

Glancing over my shoulder, the sun is observed setting in the west, with its glimmer on the turbulent waves of the bay (in whose waters a few months later, December 1860, I saw resting at anchor the bark "Cora" she being the last slaver captured by the United States), whose rays were also shown in an effulgent manner on the distant hills of Staten Island. A dense cloud of smoke is observed on the horizon, out of which slowly emerges that leviathan of the deep, "The Great Eastern," built by Brunel, lazily working her way up the North River to her pier at the foot of Christopher Street. This 28th day of June, 1860, she was on her maiden trip to America, and was surrounded by all kinds of craft crowded with people, while the Battery held thousands of citizens to welcome the largest vessel ever built, being 680 feet in length. The writer of this article was among them and subsequently visited the ship at her berth. She arrived in America again on August 27, 1862, coming through Long Island Sound, and anchored in Flushing Bay, not coming to New York City. While old Castle Williams on Governor's Island frowns with the many guns which surround its parapet, one of which is soon to be





AWARDED BY  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE SOCIETY  
HELD AT CASTLE GARDEN ON THE BATTERY  
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 1846

TO MAJOR WILLIAM JONES  
FOR THE BEST THOROUGHBRED BROOD MARE  
NAMED "EMILY GLENTWORTH".





heard as denoting the setting of the sun, at which time the flag is hauled down. Close by looms up that historic enclosure called Castle Garden, now the Aquarium.

This quaint old brick structure was originally erected in 1807 by the general government as a fort, the same as Castle Williams, being situated about three hundred yards from the mainland. It was called Castle Clinton, after Governor George Clinton, whose nephew, was DeWitt Clinton, under whose administration the Erie Canal was built in 1825. As a means of defense it was abandoned about 1820-22, and it was then used as a place for reception purposes, as also entertainments, concerts, fairs, etc. Lafayette was received there in 1824; President Andrew Jackson in 1832; President John Tyler in 1843, and Kossuth in 1851, the Federal Government having ceded it to the city.

The American Institute held their fairs there in 1846, at which time Major William Jones, of Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, who was one of the pioneers of trotting and running races in New York State early in the nineteenth century, was awarded a silver cup for the best thoroughbred brood mare. She was called Emily Glentworth, foaled 23d February, 1838, by Imported Trustee dam Princess. And at the twenty-third annual fair in 1850, Major Jones was awarded a silver cup for the best blood mare. She was called Young Dove. Both of these mares were of royal pedigree and bred on Long Island. The first cup is now in possession of the writer, after whose mother the mare was named. The Young Dove cup is in the possession of the wife of Rear Admiral F. E. Chadwick of the United States Navy, the Major being the great-grandfather of the present owners of both cups.

The exhibitors at these fairs were from New York City, Long Island, Staten Island, Westchester County, and near-by counties in New Jersey. Long Island generally carried off most of the prizes in the equine department of the fair. It was only a few months after this, on September 7th, 1850, when Jenny Lind sang there under the management of the great



showman, Phineas T. Barnum, when John N. Genin, the hatter under Barnum's Museum, subsequently the Astor House, bought the first reserved seat at the large premium of two hundred and twenty-five dollars.

Part of the board walk was still there which led out to the main entrance, it being used as an emigrant depot, to which purpose it was appropriated in 1855. One of the last events in a reception way in which it figured was on September 1st, 1858, when the Atlantic Cable celebration took place, and Mr. Cyrus W. Field, the projector of same, landed at Castle Garden, received by a national salute from the forts on Governor's and Bedloe's Islands, where the Statue of Liberty now stands. He was escorted by an immense procession of the militia, various societies and citizens, in which the writer joined with the Mercantile Library Association of Astor Place, going up Broadway to the Crystal Palace. Here Mr. Field was given the freedom of the city, and presented with a gold box in which the documents giving him such privileges reposed.

This cable was laid partly by the U. S. Man of War "Niagara." It being a failure, the subsequent one was similarly laid by the "Great Eastern," which turned out a great success.

On the 17th following, the celebration was kept up by a night procession of the Volunteer Fire Department, and fireworks were shot off in front of the City Hall, which terminated rather disastrously, as a spark caught in the cupola and totally destroyed same; but no damage of any note was done to the Old City Hall, except to the part mentioned.

The bridge or walk was soon entirely obliterated by the filling in of earth out to the breakwater. This largely increased the size of Battery Park, and made it large enough for a parade ground for the State militia, then under the command of Major-General Sandford. It also put Castle Garden on the mainland. Steamboats came up in the rear and delivered the emigrants, who were arriving at this Gateway of America



in hordes from both Ireland and Germany, generally coming in the steerage by the steamer lines. Previously they had arrived in the second cabin and upper decks of sailing vessels, which naturally limited the number emigrated; and great also was the difference in time between the two means of reaching their destination. By steam they could cross the Atlantic in from twelve to eighteen days, while the packets generally took from five to six weeks (except in one or two cases, like the clipper "Flying Cloud," fast as a steamer, and clipper "Dreadnought," which crossed in less than thirteen and a half days),—that is, if they escaped the treacherous sands of the south shore of Long Island from Montauk Point to Coney Island, and the Jersey shore from Barnegat to Sandy Hook. Quarantine was on the east side of Staten Island, covering quite a large tract of land direct at the entrance of the Kill von Kull, which had situated upon it fine suitable buildings painted yellow. It was surrounded by a brick wall of the same color. The sailing vessels would anchor in the Narrows adjacent, where they would discharge their pilot, who had boarded them seventy-five to one hundred miles out at sea from one of the numerous pilot boats, which were two-masted schooners, strongly built and very much like a yacht in appearance and speed, that were owned at and cruised out to sea from the port of New York; while the steamers, which also had to take a pilot, would run up and anchor in the North River. Both would deliver their human freight into steamboats or barges to deliver at Castle Garden.

The Germans, most of whom had been fairly educated at their birthplace, did not care to tarry in the great cities of the seaboard States, except to a very limited extent. The majority immediately started for the West, which at that time were the States of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. Many of them remained in the cities of Cincinnati and Milwaukee, while most of them went beyond these points to the more extreme West, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado. The poor emigrant of that period and his descend-





ants are now the owners of the rich farming land of the great Middle West, as also the owners of many of the great mining interests there, coupled with most of the ownership of the immense breweries, elevators, and pork and beef packing establishments in the cities of that part of the United States, also becoming bankers and respected citizens in every trade in these cities.

With the Irish it seemed to be different. They evidently had received enough experience farming on impoverished land not owned by them at home, that would not tend to make them take up another trial of the same kind on arriving in the new home of their adoption. They rather desired to remain in the seaboard towns, although some went west with the Germans and took up agricultural pursuits. The majority preferred city life, becoming masons, builders, mechanics, and tradesmen generally; acquiring ownership in a corner store which was used for both grocery, living, and the liquor business, seemed to be the height of ambition of this nationality, as also to get into politics and the police force; so at one time fully three quarters of the police of New York City and Brooklyn were of Irish birth or extraction. A native M. P. was a rarity. The descendants of this race, however, the same as came over in colonial and revolutionary times, became in due course great lawyers, judges, mayors of cities, and governors of States, and our most estimable citizens.

The enlarging of the Battery forced the removal of Hall's Baths, which had been located here many years, to an outside location, where it was securely held by large chain cables, as the current was very swift at this extreme southern point of Manhattan Island. These baths were quite famous, they formerly being owned by Dr. Rabineau and purchased from him by Isaac Hall, a shipchandler of Broad Street near Front, who resided in Montague Street, corner of Hicks, Brooklyn.





## CHAPTER TWO

PASSING by the west side of State Street, which was lined with handsome brick houses two and three stories in height occupied as dwellings and erected early in the nineteenth century, and going out of the park at the southeast entrance, leaving the host of promenaders and nurses with babies in carriages to their enjoyment we wander along South Street as far as Coenties Slip, where will be observed the large basin, it being occupied by canal boats. At this point they discharge their cargo of flour and grain. No elevators were then in existence in New York City, and most all the large flour and grain merchants were in this vicinity. There were only a few storehouses in the Atlantic Docks in South Brooklyn, Laimbeer's and Masters', and Harbeck's on the East River front. Many of them had been located here for a great many years, such as Holt & Co., David Dows & Co., Wallace & Wicks, Sage & Co., Weeks & Douglas, Isaac H. Reed & Co., Harriott & Co., Theodore Perry, Tompkins & Co., W. H. Newman & Co., Lane & Mangam. Thos. Richardson & Co., Carlos Cobb, Peter J. Nevius & Co., Hoagland & Bogart, Josiah M. Fisk & Co., and Jeremiah Leacraft; while in the vicinity of Peck Slip and Roosevelt Street were Noah T. Sweezy, William R. Foster, Theodore Banks and the Heckers; and at the foot of Fulton Street, Brooklyn, were the large Jewell Mills. The picture of these mills was considered so appropriate on account of the mills having been destroyed by fire at one time, that the design was used by the Volunteer Fire Department of Brooklyn on their steel engraved certificate of membership for a new member joining the system.

Looking east, was seen in the distance on the long river front from Coenties Slip to Catharine Street, innumerable masts of the many Californian clippers and London and Liverpool packets, with their long bowsprits extending way over South

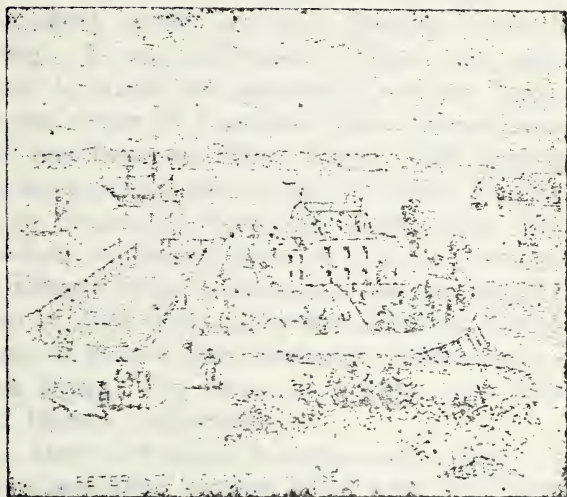


Street, reaching nearly to the opposite side. Among these was the "Dreadnought," "Sovereign of the Seas," "Black Warrior," "W. T. Coleman," "Rainbow," "London," "Yorkshire," "Charles H. Marshall," "Comet," "A. A. Low," "Albert Gallatin," "Challenge," "Invincible," "Surprise," "Sword Fish," "Jacob A. Stanler," "Liverpool," "Jeremiah Thompson," "Moses H. Grinnell," "Swallow," "Isaac Webb," "Victoria," "George Washington," "Flying Cloud," "Joseph Walker," and many others, including the old packet "Harvest Queen."

The "Joseph Walker" was burned at her pier at the foot of Market Street on the East River. Ship "Jeremiah Thompson" was totally destroyed by fire directly off Bedloe's Island in the upper bay of New York about 1861. She was loaded with cotton for the Liverpool market.

And from Old Slip to Burling Slip on South Street and vicinity were the stores and offices of world-renowned old firms of shipping merchants, such as Youngs & Co., Peter V. King & Co., Alsop & Co., Aymar & Co., Sutton & Co., Howland & Aspinwall, Dunham & Dimon, Grinnell, Minturn & Co., Charles H. Marshall & Co., Kermitt & Carow, Joseph Eneas, N. L. McCready & Co., W. F. Coleman & Co., Howland & Frothingham, A. A. Low & Bro., Benjamin Blossom, Samuel Thompson's Nephew, Sturges, Bennett & Co., Josiah Macy's Sons, D. & A. Kingsland & Sutton, P. Harmony's Nephews, Boorman, Johnston & Co., W. R. Grace & Co., Phelps, Dodge & Co., Maitland, Phelps & Co., Oehrichs & Co., Moses Taylor & Co., Wetmore, Cryder & Co., Boyd & Hincken, Ship Agents, L. E. Amsinck & Co., Ship Agents and Importers, Peter Cooper's Glue Factory, Strong's Drug House in Burling Slip, Burdett, Jones & Co., auctioneers foot of Wall Street west side; Henry Sheldon & Co., Grocers, Front Street; Patterson & Price, Tobacco Dealers, Robert & Williams, Sugar Importers, Water Street near Wall; Francis Skiddy, Sugar Importer, Peter Moller & Co., Sugar Refiners, Vietor & Duckwitz, Exporters, Pearl Street near Old Slip; B. Blanco, Cuban Importer, same locality; Havemeyer & Elder, Sugar





### WHITE HALL

Corner of Front and Moore Streets, New York. Built  
before 1661. Home of Lambert Moore, 1727





Refiners, Ralph Mead & Co., Grocers, Coenties Slip, Hemenway & Beveridge, Sail Makers, Wall Street Ferry, Dutcher & Ellerby, Hops, Pearl Street near Coenties Slip, Seguire & Johnson, Provisions, Water Street near Coenties Slip, Work & Rossiter, Provisions, Front Street near Broad, and Fred and Joseph Leggett, Cheese and Butter, Front Street near Broad, also J. W. Elwell, Ship Broker.

The street at this point of the Battery Park was called Whitehall, which ran from Bowling Green to the South Ferry. It was afterwards widened and called Broadway. Close by stands out prominently the new Produce Exchange, on the corner of Pearl and Water Streets, facing Whitehall, the rear being on Moore Street. This street got its name by being on the site of the old White Mansion, erected by Peter Stuyvesant about 1661, called White Hall, which was the home of Lambert Moore in 1727. His wife was a daughter of Edward Holland, who was at one time mayor of Albany, as also of New York. The new Produce Exchange took the place of the old Corn Exchange, which was in South Street near Broad. The former is now the Army headquarters for the Eastern Department.

Many well known horsemen were members of this association, and after business hours were seen behind their trotters on the old Bloomingdale road, Harlem lane, or on the way to the Red House track at 105th Street and Second Avenue; while those who resided in Brooklyn hied for the Coney Island road, or the road which turned off from Fulton or at Bedford to East New York, leading out to Bill Whelan's, Hiram Woodruff's, Hoagland's, and John I. Snedecor's hostleries.

Josiah Fisk, the great flour merchant of South Street, was an enthusiastic horseman. He resided in Fifth Avenue, where the old Brunswick Hotel formerly stood—in fact, his house formed part of the hotel near the corner of Twenty-Seventh Street. He was a pioneer in upper Fifth Avenue, having erected his new house on the corner of Seventieth.



Street when there was hardly a residence between that point and Fifty-Ninth Street. His stables were in the rear of his house, and when you met him on the road driving his team of Durocs you would meet a strong competitor. Timothy Eastman, the big cattle dealer of a later date, had his home and stable directly in the rear on Seventieth Street, in which there were many good trotters. Other horsemen of the Exchange were George Knapp and his brother Robert. They came from Orange County, residing in the Ninth Ward for many years, eventually settling on stock farms near Tarrytown. At one period they were of the old house of Patterson, Knapp & Co., pork packers, in Washington Street near Charlton Street. This was when pork packing and ham and bacon curing was a great industry in New York. Many of the principal houses in this trade were Robt. P. Getty and J. A. Amelung of Yonkers; Geo. D. Cragin, Beckstein & Co., Fred Link & Co., Jewel Harrison & Co., C. F. Matlage, Benj. Floyd of Broome Street, east of Christie, William Clark on Christie Street near Grand, Halstead & Co., Forsyth near Houston, Chamberlain, Roe & Co., First Street near the Bowery, William T. Marshall in Second Avenue and First Street, Richard Sager in First Avenue and Fifth Street, Silberhorn on Christie near Grand, Ferris in Elizabeth Street near Houston, Coates & McMillan in West 32d Street near Tenth Avenue, C. H. Meday, Washington Street corner King, Sinclair & Co., Tenth Avenue and Sixteenth Street, Millerman in West Street near Barclay, Rohe Bros. West 33d Street and Tenth Avenue. Brooklyn was represented by John Lockett & Co. on Fulton Street near Orange and W. B. Barber on Columbia Street near Amity.

Cattle and hogs were driven through the streets at all times of the day in droves, with wagons following to pick up those that dropped off fatigued. Eventually laws were passed prohibiting day driving; so late at night you would frequently hear them coming from side streets, even on those lined with brownstone houses adjacent to Fifth Avenue, on their way to the hog yards or slaughterhouses.



There were several slaughterhouses for hogs, cattle and sheep around East Houston Street, near the Bowery, but the majority of them were situated on the North River, foot of Thirty-Ninth Street, and the East River, foot of Forty-Fourth Street. The principal men engaged in the hog-slaughtering business were Tobey & Booth, Monroe Crane, Spring & Haynes, Charles White & Co., Bartlett & Struble, Allerton & Co., Stahlnecker & Co., Lippincott & Co., and Halstead & Co. This business began to assume such immense proportions that the authorities put many restrictions on same, forcing most of them to move away from the city. Many went to Communipaw, N. J., just on the bay south of Jersey City. Eventually this industry began to decline in New York, by the opening up of so many large packing plants in the middle west, where they could work to better advantage, as they were nearer their source of supply, such as Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Mo., Omaha, Neb., Cedar Rapids, Independence, Oskaloosa and Keokuk, Iowa.

Having digressed a little, that is, from horses to hogs, I will get back to the former.

John R. Griffith, Robert Morrison, and John G. Dale were all Englishmen and had some good trotters in their stables; W. H. Newman, the large flour merchant of 78 Pearl Street, and who resided on Toad Hill, Staten Island, owned several good ones, which he speeded from Vanderbilt Landing on his way home.

George Slauson, the wholesale grocer of Southworth, Slauson & Co., of 84 Pearl Street, who was from Ulster County, and Isaac H. Reed, flour merchant of State Street, who resided at the New York Hotel, could always be seen most every day driving a team of well matched trotters both in the park or on the road.

Frank Moulton, of Woodruff & Robinson, salt dealers in Coenties Slip, you often met on the Brooklyn roads behind a speedy pair. His partners, who resided on Brooklyn Heights, foot of Remsen Street, were also in the van.





Horace Waldo and his relatives, Frank Fox and his brother, who were the American Agents of the French line of steamers "Arago" and "Fulton," drove on the New York roads the best obtainable, as also Jacob Smull of the Inman Line. George F. Johnson, the large real estate owner of New York property, rode behind many good ones in his early days, as his father, Frederick Johnson, owned such celebrated trotters as Jack Cade, Grey Messenger, Fred, California Damsel, Genesee, Woodpecker, and others. One of the last that he owned was the chestnut horse Prince, who, with Walker's black mare May Bird as mate, trotted on the old Fleetwood track in its early days in one of the greatest team races that ever took place, their competitors being Clara G. and New Berlin Girl, owned by James Breslin and driven by Dan Mace; Lady Dahlman and Charley Green, driven by John Murphy; and a team from Poughkeepsie, Uncle Dave and Mate. Uncle Dave was a roan rat tail, not much of a looker. John Doty, who drove Prince and May Bird, won the race in three straight heats. May Bird was subsequently sold to Robert Bonner. Woodpecker I would also refer to particularly. He was a rather small black stallion, coming originally from Canada, and was trained by Wood Conklin at Huntington, Long Island. I well remember this so called little horse, and great was the rivalry between him and the little chestnut stallion Ploughboy, who was owned at one time by George Hunt of Brooklyn, as also by Lambert Suydam of Brooklyn. He was driven and trained by the brother in law Seaman, or Charlie Sammis, who lived at the corner of Main and Washington Streets, Hempstead. Each of these horses had the strongest kind of partisans among Long Islanders. They were about even as to speed, and many matches were made. But they never materialized, as one or the other would pay forfeit, something would happen, lameness or sickness.

Wandering around Bowling Green on the south side, facing the enclosed fountain, the New York Custom House now occupying the site, stood five or six brick houses with peaked





roofs with dormer windows, which were formerly residences. They were occupied at this time by all large steamship companies. The Cunard Line was No. 3, the Panama Line was No. 5. Commodore Vanderbilt had his office on this block. The end house on the corner of State Street was still a private residence, occupied by Stephen Whitney. The British Consulate's headquarters were in the building 15 and 17 Broadway. It had two iron lions in front, one on each side of the stoop entrance. They are still there. This property belonged to William H. Guion, of the Guion Steamship Line, who sold it to the Mr. George F. Johnson previously mentioned, since resold by him. The Stevens House, formerly Delmonicos, was close by on the corner of Morris Street, patronized largely by Englishmen. The office of the Collins Line was at 64 Wall Street. E. K. Collins was the principal owner and agent. It was the rival line to the Cunard Company to Liverpool, being an American Company. Among its side-wheel steamers were the "Atlantic," "Baltic," "Arctic," "Pacific," and "Adriatic." The last one was built by George Steers, the great drydock shipbuilder. She was the queen of the fleet. The "Arctic" was lost off the coast of Newfoundland, Cape Race, on September 27, 1854, being run into by another steamer, the French steamship "Vesta," Captain Duchesne. Many lives were lost. Captain Luce, commander of the "Arctic," was saved after experiencing many hardships. In his latter years he was employed by one of the large marine insurance companies as inspector, the Atlantic or the Great Western.

The "Pacific" was also lost. No tidings have ever been heard of her. On her last trip to Liverpool, the writer took some late letters and gave them to the purser on board of her. On the return trip the latter part of January, 1856, with one hundred and eighty passengers, she was lost. Her dock was at the foot of Canal Street, North River, and at that period the sailing of a steamer was a great event, friends bid-



ding each other good-by as if they never expected to see them again after an ocean voyage.

The Cunard Line seemed to be the most successful one. Among their steamers were the "Africa," "Asia," "Persia," "Arabia," and "Russia," and for many years they were represented in New York by Sir Edward Cunard, and later by Mr. C. G. Francklyn. Their pier was at the foot of Montgomery Street, Jersey City, N. J.

The Inman Line came into existence at a later date, and was represented here by John G. Dale at 13 Broadway. Jacob Smull and Robert M. Floyd had charge of their freight department. Their pier was at the foot of Charlton Street, North River. Among their steamers were the "City of Baltimore," "City of Glasgow," "City of London," "City of Liverpool," "City of Cork," "City of Linerick," "City of Boston," "City of Washington," "City of Edinburgh," "City of Philadelphia," "City of Paris," "City of Manchester," and "City of New York." The\* "City of Glasgow" and the "City of Boston" were lost at sea and never heard from, the latter being lost in 1870. The former 1854.

The docks of the coastwise steamers were on the North River from the foot of Morris Street up, such as the Norfolk, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, and Havanna lines. Among them were the steamers "Savannah," "Jamestown," "Georgia," "Star of the West," "Black Warrior," "Nashville," "Morning Star," "Evening Star," "Charleston," "Alabama," "Florida," "Huntsville," "Central America," and "Augusta." Of these side wheel steamships, the "Star of the West," of the New Orleans line, Captain McGowan in command, will go down in history with the greatest record. This boat was selected by the War Department of the United States Government, in January, 1861, to take supplies and an increase to the garrison stationed at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor; which was very small and unable to defend same, being under

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\*For Philadelphia.



the command of Major Robert Anderson. This fort was surrounded by Confederate batteries, so no relief could be obtained from the mainland. The foregoing mentioned left New York on January 5, 1861, with some two hundred men and officers, arriving at Charleston, S. Car., on January 9th A. M. She was fired upon from Fort Moultrie and batteries on Morris Island and hit twice, and although not damaged to any great extent, it caused her commander to stop and retreat, heading for New York, where she arrived back January 12, 1861, without fulfilling her mission. Some of the other boats were used in the service of both sides during the Civil War in various capacities, except the "Evening Star" and "Central America," which were lost at sea on voyages from Havanna to New York. Captain Herndon was in command of the latter. He was lost, with many others, September 12, 1857. His monument is in the Naval Academy grounds at Annapolis, Maryland. Many lives were lost by the sinking of the "Evening Star," October 3, 1866. Billy Birch, the noted minstrel, was among those saved in a sensational manner, which gave him quite a notoriety at the time.

The Albany boats went from the foot of Canal Street. The grand night boats of that time were the "New World" and the "Isaac Newton." My first trip to Albany on the former in 1858 was the event of my life, my bunk being in the hold forward, used for the dining room. The berths were all around the sides and back of the tables, with very little ventilation. The day boat to Rondout and Kingston and intermediate places was the "Mary Powell." She got the reputation of being the fastest boat on the river, which was kept up for many years. The night boats were the "Thomas Powell," "Hasbrouck," and "Rondout."

On the East River were the docks of the New Haven, Hartford, and Bridgeport night boats. They left from the foot of Peck Slip. The boats were called "Traveller," "City of Hartford," "City of New Haven," "Elm City," "Granite State," "Empire State," and "Continental." While the day





boats running to Sands Point, Glen Cove, Oyster Bay, and Cold Spring Harbor, left from the same locality, such as the "Croton" and the "Seawanaka," the latter being burned in Hell Gate just at the entrance of the Harlem River, where she was run ashore. Many lives were lost in this disaster. The "T. B. Arrowsmith" also belonged to this line.

The Harlem boats were quite a feature of rapid transit, for if you took the horsecars, it would take you fully two and a half hours to get to Park Row or back to Harlem; while the Harlem boats, which left Peck Slip every half hour, would get you there before you knew it. The crack boats of this line were the "Sylvan Stream," "Sylvan Shore," "Sylvan Glen," "Sylvan Dell," and "Harlem." Their docks in Harlem were at East 116th Street, East 122d Street, and Third Avenue Bridge on the Harlem River, where you took the boat "Tiger Lily" for High Bridge. That part of Harlem in those days, viz., Pleasant Avenue and the side streets, was very choice, and property east of Third Avenue was really worth double to that of West side. This was in the late sixties.

The "Old Colony," "Stonington," "Newport," "Fall River," "Providence," and "Bristol" ran at the same time from the foot of Warren Street to Fall River, Newport and Providence.

The Ward Line, New Orleans & Galveston steamers ran from the foot of Wall Street, East River, and the Mallory Line from the foot of Burling Slip.

A European steamer's arrival was first heralded by the newsboys, who appeared upon the street about two hours after they cast anchor, with a one-sheet newspaper, generally the "New York Herald," edited by James Gordon Bennett, whose printing office was in Nassau Street, northwest corner of Fulton street, or the "Evening Post," corner of Nassau and Liberty, William Cullen Bryant, editor. They appeared with a large heading, marked Extra—Arrival of the "Baltic," "Atlantic," "Asia," "Arago," or others of the three steamer lines then in existence.



The blazing headlines gave in a very few words the latest foreign news. The price of the extra was six pence. This way of letting the people know of the latest European news was kept up until the Atlantic cable came into existence. Quite well do I remember the anxiety of some New-Yorkers to get the latest news during the storming of Sebastopol in the Crimean War between England and Russia, until the fall of that stronghold, September 9, 1855, after a long siege. Also of the latest news from India, November 17, 1857, when the English garrison was relieved at Lucknow, where Sir Henry Haverlock was penned up and Sir Colin Campbell came to the rescue during the Sepoy Rebellion in India.

The mails were taken to the Post Office in Nassau Street, between Cedar and Liberty (Old Dutch Church). Long lines were formed, extending from about fifteen delivery windows clear out into the street. After a patient wait of nearly an hour, the mails would be assorted and put in the various boxes belonging to the banks and mercantile houses; then the shutters or gates would all open at a signal, and the letters and papers delivered. Postage was quite an item, and those applying for their mail were freely supplied with silver or gold, as the letters were weighed and cash paid on delivery. Many bankers and merchants paid as high as five to twenty dollars postage at the first delivery and more later on. No bills of any kind were received by the Post Office. Only gold and silver passed muster, and a man those days had to carry a Thompson Bank Note Reporter in his pocket to consult before he would accept a bill, to find out if it was good.



### CHAPTER THREE

**T**HE old Washington Hotel (formerly the Kennedy Mansion) stood on the corner of Broadway and Battery Place, the Field Building now occupying the site. It was a great place for Produce Exchange members to dine in the late fifties and early sixties. I met many of them there on many occasions, among them Thomas Richardson, George D. Cragin, the great pork packer, and members of the Kingan and Sinclair firms, who were engaged here as Irish packers, representing Belfast provision houses; Thomas Harrison, of Jewell, Harrison & Co., and William H. Popham, who resided at Scarsdale. Both of these gentlemen were horse fanciers. On Beaver Street, near Broad, was the fire company (volunteer system), Mechanic Hose No. 8. John Rouse of the old pork inspectors on the Produce Exchange was foreman of this company. Corner of Broad and Beaver was the large ducking and sail-making material house of Fox & Polhemus. Harry Polhemus of this firm was an old Brooklynite, being at one time a member of Pacific Engine Co. No. 14, of the old volunteer fire department, whose house was in Pierrepont Street, near Fulton. He always drove a trotter or team of same on the Coney Island plank road, having in his stable many speedy ones to select from.

Other members of that grand old fire company who were enthusiastic horsemen were William A. Fowler, who at one time was connected with the large rice dealing concern of Talmadge & Co. in Water Street, near Old Slip. He was subsequently Commissioner of Public Works in Brooklyn. Also Frederick S. Massey, Joseph Leggett, Frederick Aymar, Lewis Howard, and in later days Smith C. Baylis and Eddie O'Flynn.

Frank Howard, who was with Spofford, Tileston & Co., corner of Morris Street and Broadway, who were agents of





the Charleston and Havanna steamers before the war, owned many good horses, which he drove on the Brooklyn roads when Hicks Post's roadhouse was in the woods just off Flatbush Avenue, now Prospect Park, and Mort Tunison's (By Jimmy Neddy) was at Parkville on the Coney Island road, two of the great roadhouses of that locality, including Ben Nelson's on the Flatbush road. Mr. Howard was the owner of the fast gelding called Snake (Rattle Snake). He was matched against William Park's roan horse Red Jacket. The race was trotted over the Union Course, Long Island, being won by Snake. Mr. Howard also owned a bay mare which he bought from F. J. Nodine, called the Clay mare. It was an overnight purchase, and when the buyer called for his mare the next day to be hooked up for a drive, another mare was substituted, which very naturally the purchaser would not stand for, and a lawsuit of long endurance followed. In the interim the mare was taken from Mr. Nodine's stable one night, which was on Pierrepont Street near Fulton, and put in Evert Snedecor's stable in Boerum Street near Fulton Avenue, where the courthouse now stands. She was so disguised in her appearance that the two detectives—I believe they were Messrs. Frost and Denton—who were looking for her could not recognize her.

This unpleasant matter came to a disastrous end, as she was found dead in her stable one morning after only a few days' sojourn in her new home. It was the general impression that some enemy of Mr. Howard's had poisoned her. I saw her remains, and can distinctly remember the deep feeling engendered among the horsemen of the day at the sad ending of this valuable mare.

Sieghortner's restaurant was in Pearl Street directly opposite Coenties Slip. Seymour Burrell, who was in the butter and cheese trade in close proximity, drove a good team on the Brooklyn roads, as also Maynard Thorne in the lighterage business on Water Street near Coenties Slip. He was the grand uncle of Tommy Murphy, the popular and proficient



driver of to-day. Delmonico's was in Beaver Street, corner of South William, where it is at the present time. Lorenzo Delmonico was often seen on the New York roads behind a good pair of trotters. The Stock Exchange was in the center of the block (Lord's Court), with entrances on William and Beaver Streets, part of the building being on the latter street. Many of the members were trotting-horse men, such as George Alley; Commodore Dodge, of Clark, Dodge & Co., his residence being on State Street corner of Garden, Brooklyn, with his stables adjoining; James Bache, who also resided in Brooklyn, where he kept his horses; August Belmont, whose office was in Wall Street near William, always had many good trotters. His residence was at the corner of Eighteenth Street and Fifth Avenue, with stable in the rear. He wintered many of his stock at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, also at Babylon, Long Island, where he had a large farm. William Parks of Brooklyn, as also Henry N. Smith, Frank Work, Jay Gould, Col. Fred Lawrence of Bayside, L. I., and William Rockefeller, were prominent horsemen.

In Exchange Place, on the north side of the street, near William Street, was the dry goods house of William Watson & Co. They subsequently removed to Park Place Corner of Church Street, on part of the old site of Columbia College before this institution removed to Madison Avenue and Fortyninth Street. Robert and William Watson, Jr., were brought up in this house, and before and during the early days of Fleetwood the latter drove many good horses in company with that genial and much respected horseman, David Bonner; also with Col. Kip, Sheppard F. Knapp, Pierre Lorillard and Peter Moller. Janesville belonged to William Watson and was quite a speedy horse. John Waller, who was in the dry goods trade with the house of Paton & Co., on the west side of Broad Street, near Wall, where the Stock Exchange now stands, and who married a daughter of James Nye who was a member of the first police commission under the metropolitan system of New York and later territorial governor of Nevada before it



became a State, was a trotting horse enthusiast and drove some good ones in Brooklyn and later in New York. Frank Baker, who had an exchange office in the basement corner of Wall and Broad Streets, the site now being occupied by J. P. Morgan & Co., owned Ethan Allen, while his brother owned Honest Allen. Ethan Allen was a grand animal in every respect. He was sired by Morgan's Black Hawk (or Flying Morgan) out of a Messenger mare. He trotted in 2:34½ and was exhibited in Niblo's Garden in 1863-64.

Other celebrated restaurants was an oyster house kept by the negro George Downing, in the basement of No. 3 Broad Street, it being considered the best of its kind, and many prominent men of that day could be seen there at lunch hour, such as Jacob Little, the Quaker stock-broker; James B. Glentworth, tobacco inspector for the United States; Jacob Barker, also a Quaker; Fitz Green Hallock, John H. Coster, Stephen Whitney, Josiah Macy, Erastus Brooks, Wilmerding, the auctioneer; Albert H. Nicolay and Anthony J. Bleecker, real estate brokers; Francis B. Cutting, the great lawyer; Jacob Hays and his brother William, who lived at Inwood where the Abbey now is and had a stable full of horses; and David Dudley Field, the great lawyer. Downing resided on Mercer Street near Houston, and was a great caterer for all kinds of entertainments.

Pettit, of Pettit & Crooks' eating house in Water Street near Pine, and David Goold, who had a restaurant in Nassau Street where the Bank of Commerce now is, were drivers on the Brooklyn roads. Among other good restaurants was the Auction Eating House in Water Street near Wall, kept by George W. Brown; Clark & Brown's in Maiden Lane near Liberty Street; Windust's, 13 Park Row. Over the entrance was the motto "Nunquam non paratus." The cheaper ones, such as Meschutts', Mrs. Weeks', Jones', and Belmont House in Fulton Street, were in the same vicinity. These were all downtown eating houses. Clark & Brown's I will describe more minutely. The dining room was a large one, being the





place where you could get the very best roast beef, rare, cut in thick slices, or a beefsteak about warmed through, English plum pudding, and a mug of the best half-and-half. This place was known as an English chophouse and was patronized by Yorkshire men. The tables were really in pews, as you were enclosed by a high back, and could not observe who was in the adjoining box. Windust's was a great place for actors to take their meals, such as young Tom Hamblin, Ed Forrest, and the Booths, as also Fernando Wood, Henry Ward Beecher, and Thurlow Weed. The first being Mayor of New York, the second the eminent Brooklyn preacher, and the third a prominent Republican politician. I heard Henry Ward Beecher in about 1887 preach one of his last sermons in the parlor of the Grand Pacific Hotel, Clark Street, Chicago, Ill. The St. George Cricket Club was formed at Clark & Brown's, composed of English residents. I dined here with my father as a boy and later as I advanced toward manhood. The grounds of the Cricket Club were on Staten Island, close to the New York Yacht Club House, in front of which you would see resting at anchor the low rakish sloop yacht "Maria" or the "Julia," owned by John Stevens of Hoboken, in close proximity to the "Rambler," "Wanderer," "Rebecca," "Comet," W. H. Langley, owner, "Vesta," "Fleet Wing," George Osgood, owner, and "Henrietta," the latter and the "Rebecca" owned by James Gordon Bennett, Jr. The "Henrietta" gained great prominence in 1866, winning the great ocean yacht race from Sandy Hook to the Needles, off the Isle of Wight, for a stake of \$90,000, December 11, 1866. It was between the "Henrietta," "Fleet Wing," and "Vesta." The match was made by George and Franklin Osgood and Pierre Lorillard. The "Fleet Wing" arrived second and the "Vesta" third. Great interest was taken by every one until the result was heralded.

Guerin's, a French pastry cook shop, was on Broadway between Pine and Cedar Streets, No. 120, and was largely patronized, as was also Hitchcock's on Park Row. Blanks Ger-



man Bakery was in Cedar Street just west of Broadway on the south side. John Davidson had a bakery at the corner of Broad and Stone Streets, where you could get a good piece of pie for sixpence and a glass of milk for three cents. This was in 1855-60. Crook & Duff's, which was quite a celebrated eating house, came into existence later, and was on Park Row in the Times Building. It was patronized largely by politicians and employees of the public departments in that vicinity, as also Leggett's and Sweeney's. Smith & McNell's fed the Washington Market butchers and others in their restaurant on Washington Street opposite the market. Milton Sweet catered to the Fulton Market butchers and many Brooklyn people at his dining rooms at the corner of Fulton and South Streets. Farrar & Lyon's saloon being next door on South Street. Berry's Dining Rooms, also of a later date, were on Broad Street where the Mills Building is at present. Sutherland in Liberty Street near Nassau. Cable was an employee of the latter. He opened a restaurant for himself on Broadway near Cedar Street, also a hotel at Coney Island, in which it was said the Culver Road was interested. He made a great success of this place, as it was really the pioneer of making Coney Island regenerated. Felter kept the Oceanic at the end of the Shell Road just over the bridge. There was another house where you could get good clams, fish, and oysters near the shore—Thompson's. These were really the only two houses of any account kept open to the public on that part of Coney Island until the advent of Tom Cable. The west end of the Island was considered a rough place to go. It was called later Norton's Point, as Mike Norton, a New York politician, opened a hotel here, and the boats from New York made their landing, there being no other landing place for steamboats on the Island.

There was also quite a celebrated place which had an entrance on Wall Street, really a hallway about three feet in width, which was in the rear of the building at the corner of Broad, it having an exit on Broad Street next to No. 3.





It was the celebrated retail soda water place of A. J. Delatour. In the summer time you would often see a line formed on Wall Street fully fifty feet in length awaiting their turn to reach the fountain. The glasses were kept in tubs of ice, with only one valve to draw from, syrups being kept in bottles. One man poured out the syrup while the other drew the soda water, it being the very best. After drinking your long glassful you would emerge out of the other narrow entrance into Broad Street. A. J. Delatour was a horse lover and had a fine country place at Bayside, Long Island. The Delatour business is now owned by that prominent and liberal horseman, Mr. A. C. Schuyler, of the New York Driving Club.

Jauncey's Court was directly east of Delatour's, being filled with offices for lawyers. No. 35 Wall Street was the office of the Mercantile Mutual Marine Insurance Co. Elwood Walter, an old Brooklyn Quaker, was the president; Charles Newcomb, vice president; Archie Montgomery, who resided at Whitestone, Long Island, was second vice president, he being succeeded by Alanson Wilson Hegeman; C. J. Despard being the secretary. On the corner of William Street was the office of the great Atlantic Mutual Insurance Co., the largest in America. John D. Jones was the president; Charles Dennis of Brooklyn, vice president; W. H. H. Moore second vice president; Townsend Jones being secretary. Across the hall in the same building, which was 51 Wall Street, were the offices of the Sun Mutual Insurance Company, Moses H. Grinnell being its president; Mr. Seton, vice president. On the corner of William and Cedar Streets were the offices of the New York Mutual Insurance Co. Thomas B. Saterthwaite was the president; James Lyle, vice president. The Great Western Mutual Insurance Co. was around on Pine Street between William and Nassau. Richard Lathers, who resided at New Rochelle, was the president of same; Mr. Coxe, vice president. The New York Fire and Marine was in Wall opposite Hanover, these being the only American marine insurance companies in New York. Brown Bros. & Co., Bankers, were on the





corner of Hanover, where they are at this date. L. von Hoffman & Co., the German bankers, were in the Post Building, corner of Exchange Place and Hanover. The Office of the "Journal of Commerce" was on the corner of Beaver and Hanover Streets. Wotherspoon, Kingsford & Co., as also John T. Adams, cotton brokers, had their offices in the Post Building, while S. Munn, Son & Co., in the same trade, were at 122 Pearl Street, and Eastons, Cahoon & Kinney were at the corner of Wall and Pearl; W. H. Draper and Minturn & Partridge, auctioneers, were on Hanover Square, Brown & Secomb being the successors of the latter. The Hanover Bank was on the corner of Stone Street in the Hanover Building, while the Bank of Commerce was on the corner of Broad Street and Exchange Place, where the Johnson Building now is. Thomas B. Cummings' hardware store was at the corner of Pearl Street and Old Slip, and Winslow Lanier & Co., Bankers, were in Wall Street nearly opposite Hanover, toward William Street.

The Merchants' Exchange was built of granite with immense pillars in front, and faced on Wall Street, covering the whole block between William and Hanover, the rear being on Exchange Place. It was occupied by the Custom House when they removed from the present United States Treasury Building. It is now owned and occupied by the City National Bank, the largest bank in America.

Hammond had a jewelry, clock and watch store on the William Street side of the Merchants' Exchange. You could always set your watch the correct time at this place, which became quite celebrated. The Bank of New York was on the corner of Wall and William, Charles P. Leverich of Newtown, Long Island, being its president. The Bank of America, Union Bank, and Bank of North America and Merchants Bank on the next block up north side of Wall Street. On the south side were the Phoenix Bank, the Shoe and Leather and the Mechanics. The Marine Bank was on the corner of Pearl and Wall the Seaman's Savings Bank being on the opposite cor-



ner. The Eleventh Ward Bank was at the corner of Pearl and Burling Slip. The Bank of the State of New York was at the corner of William and Exchange Place. The Ohio Life and Trust Co. was on the southeast corner of William and Exchange Place. Carpenter & Vermilye were in the basement of the Bank of North America, Manhattan Bank being next door.

The great financial storm in the autumn of 1857 was precipitated by the suspension of \*this company on the 24th of August, for the immense sum of seven million dollars. Their downfall was followed by the closing of the Philadelphia Bank. There followed a general suspension of banks in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Maryland and the District of Columbia; in fact, a panic was on the whole country. The New York Legislature authorized the suspension of payments in all banks in the State for one year. This measure tended to restore confidence, and the banks in New York City and Brooklyn resumed payment at Christmas. The estimated amount of failures throughout the States amounted in liabilities, it was said, reaching fully three hundred million dollars.

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\*Ohio Life and Trust Company.



## CHAPTER FOUR

**R**ESUMING the tramp, we pass the Custom House on the corner of Nassau and Wall Streets (now the United States Treasury) and the tall Callender building on the northwest corner of Wall and Nassau Streets, which was occupied principally by lawyers, also being the headquarters of the "Morning Express," edited by James and Erastus Brooks. This brick building was subsequently torn down and a grand marble edifice erected on the site. Jay Cooke & Co., the great bankers of war time days, had their offices on the Wall Street side of the new building. It was not long, however, before this was found too small for the site and was again demolished, a skyscraper being erected; but even this was found too contracted, and a new thirty-story structure now covers the site, and is high enough to remain there for a few years at least, the Bankers' Trust Co. being the owners.

Adjoining the old building was the Continental Bank, and next door was the banking house of Duncan, Sherman & Co., on the corner of Nassau and Pine Streets, where the Hanover Bank is now located; and the Bank of the Republic on the corner of Wall Street and Broadway, the president of which was Robert Soutter, who lived at Astoria, and R. H. Lowery, the cashier, who lived in Henry Street, Brooklyn, including the paying teller, Mr. Henry Ford. All of these gentlemen had valuable horses in their stables.

Just a few doors north of Wall Street was located for many years what was called a Mock Auction place. There was also one just below Wall, and there were two on Park Row near Ann Street and several on Chatham Street and the lower part of Cortlandt Street. Watches were put up at auction, and a stool pigeon was at the door looking out for victims, generally countrymen. If one came in sight, great activity was immediately shown by spirited bidding, and if





they got him in a sale was made, a brass watch was substituted for the one put up for sale, which was a good one used as a decoy. It was a wonder that the authorities ever allowed these thieving places to exist, but they had a pull somewhere.

Lane, Lamson & Co. were on Broadway at the corner of Cedar Street, Bowen & McNamee being in the same block.

The principal real estate auctioneers were Anthony J. Bleecker, Albert J. Nicolay, Adrian H. Muller, and P. R. Wilkins & Co., while Wilmerding & Mount, and Ruderow, Jones & Co., the latter at the corner of William and Liberty Streets, were the principal drygoods auctioneers. John Anderson had a tobacco store at the corner of Pine Street and Broadway, southeast corner, over which a wooden statue of Sir Walter Raleigh stood. The American Surety Company now stands on this site. John Anderson owned the site of the Plaza Hotel, Fifty-ninth Street and Fifth Avenue. The fur trade was carried on in Maiden Lane and the lower part of Broadway, Gunther being the first one to go uptown to Fifth Avenue and Twenty-third Street, close to James Bell, the fashionable tailor.

Passing Trinity Church, in the churchyard of which had been erected in 1852 a monument to the soldiers of the prison ships of the Revolution, also one to the dead of 42 engine (old volunteer system). These were close to the grave of the ill-fated Charlotte Temple, an English girl who was found murdered in a bawdy house in Thomas Street, also the monuments of Captain James Lawrence of the United States Frigate "Chesapeake" and of Robert Fulton and Alexander Hamilton. All of these can be seen at the present day. It was said that the soldiers' monument was placed in that part of the yard so as to prevent the city authorities from cutting through same and extending Pine Street to the North River.

On the corner of Rector Street, running back to Trinity Place, stood the large brownstone drygoods house of J. R. Jaffray, who had a stable full of horses at his place on the



Hudson. This house afterwards removed to the northeast corner of Leonard Street and Broadway.

The hat and cap trade was in lower Broadway. Mr. Archie Finn, of Finn & Ruggles, who was a great Long Island trout fisherman, and George Osborn, of Osborn & May drove on the road the very best obtainable. Mr. Osborn came from Danbury, Conn. His daughter married Mr. Abraham Miller, who formerly resided in Buffalo, and who owned the fast one Genteel H., that came down the circuit in 1907 in company with Sonoma Girl, Highball, Wilkes Heart, Margaret O., Beatrice Bellini, Lotta, Tempus Fugit, and several other crackerjacks. Mr. Miller died in 1912, Genteel H. went to New Zealand, where he died in 1911.

Henry R. Pierson's iron yard was on Broadway just above Beaver Street. The Standard Oil Building is now on the same site. The Public Stores (U. S.) were on the southeast corner of Exchange Place and Broadway.

There was also another large iron yard, which was in Broad Street, west side, corner of Marketfield Street, Thomas Coddington & Co. being the owners. The Abeels Iron Yard was on South Street, up near Roosevelt Street.

The dilapidated brick building on the corner of Pearl and Broad Streets was the historical Fraunces Tavern. A lager beer saloon occupied the corner, junk shops in the basement, while the stores on Pearl Street were used by plumbers and small tradesmen in produce; the upper part of the house was used for flour, hops, butter and cheese storage. This antiquated pile was erected by Etienne de Lancey as his city home. He was born at Caen, France, in 1663, and came to New York on June 7, 1686. He married Anne, daughter of Stephanus Van Cortlandt and Gertrude Schuyler, his wife. He owned a large tract of land extending from the Bowery to the East River, from Stanton Street to Division Street, which was his country residence. He died November 18, 1741, and was buried in the family vault under the middle aisle of Trinity Church, nearly under the chancel. The old house subsequently became a hotel, and it was here that



Washington took leave of his officers on resigning command of the army. This old mansion is now owned and occupied by the Sons of the Revolution of the State of New York, it having been rebuilt and renovated; and in appearance, it is the same as it was in Colonial times. The Eastern Hotel was on the corner of South and Whitehall Streets. On the southeast corner of Liberty Street and Broadway stood the large marble Mutual Life Insurance Co. Building, demolished in 1913, and a new edifice put up on the old site by the Guarantee Trust Co. of New York. Well do I remember, as a young lad of seventeen or eighteen, in 1859-60, calling in there with a check to pay for the life insurance premium of my employer. The young man who always waited upon me and returned to me the receipt for same was a Mr. Henry B. Hyde, who was a most courteous and polite gentleman, fully showing that he was born and bred same. He subsequently founded the Equitable Life Assurance Society, which under his management became one of the largest in the United States. What a strong contrast I can depict of the above polished official of those days compared with many of the icicle upstarts put in many banks and monetary institutions of the present day by the influence of wealthy relatives, as all kinds of officers, second, third, fourth and fifth vice presidents and cashiers, and every one of them feeling that on his shoulders rests the whole weight of the institution. Courteousness is at a discount in this atmosphere, and a prospective customer leaves with the idea that he will call next door, where he will not encounter the glassy eye stare, and see if they want his business, which the frozen manner of the first drove away. The stockholders in this case generally turn out the sufferers. I can still call to mind, to carry out the truth of the foregoing, that the success of one of our largest savings banks in New York from its beginning was derived from the most polite attention of the treasurer. Every man, woman and child was received and treated as though they were doing a favor to the bank in being a depositor, and feeling this way, advised all their friends to open an account there.





The success of the institution, from a little two-story brick banking house in Canal Street to a grand marble one uptown fully carries out that politeness in the long run counts for something.

On the corner of Maiden Lane stood the Howard House, while the new, elegant Gilsey was on the corner of Cortlandt, where it now exists at this writing. In the rear stood the Western, Pacific, National, and Merchants hotels, the Meccas for Jerseymen and Pennsylvanians. Old Tom's chop house could be seen in Temple Street opposite the Trinity Building, in the basement of which was the drygoods house of Clafin, Mellen & Co. Mr. Clafin, who resided on Kingsbridge Road, Fordham, in the summer time, and in Brooklyn in the winter, had the best that could be obtained in the trotting line. He always drove in from Fordham to some stable below the Park, returning in the afternoon, when he could see some of the good ones on the lane to take a chance at.

Bowen & McNamee removed to their new marble store northeast corner of Pearl Street and Broadway, where the Citizens' Central National Bank is at this time; S. B. Chittenden & Co., a large drygoods house, moved into the old store, basement of 111 Broadway, and on their removing to the drygoods district further up Broadway, the real estate auctioneers took possession of this large room in the Trinity Building, which they occupied until the old yellow brick edifice was demolished a few years ago.

Knox's hat store was on the corner of Fulton Street and Broadway, with an all-night eating house in the basement. At a later date (in 1866) a footbridge was put across Broadway at this corner, according to designs of a man named Lowe. Mr. Knox objected to it, as it cut off the view of his store, and being very little used except by sightseers, it was removed in 1868.

Barnum's Museum is observed on the corner of Ann Street. The vista from this building was considered grand, as it overlooked the City Hall Park, which was enclosed by an iron railing, there being a large fountain where the Post



Office now stands. There were only four buildings in the City Hall Park at this time, viz.: the City Hall, New City Hall, which is the brownstone building facing Chambers Street, a fire company house (lately removed), and the old Hall of Records. (Provost Jail.)

The whole front of the American Museum was always covered with startling canvas signs, depicting the great curiosities within, such as the wonderful educated seal Ned; the White whale, the only one ever captured; the Woolly horse; President Washington's nurse, Joyce Heth, she being a negress; the Fee Jee Mermaid, a beautiful female with a fish's appendant, with long streaming hair, cavorting in the water (in the altogether, as it is called in these times). Among others was the "What is It," Tom Thumb, and the Happy Family, also Lavinia Warren, who became Tom's wife; Admiral Dot, who now keeps a hostelry at White Plains; Daddy Lambert, the Siamese Twins, Hutchinson the Lightning Calculator, who died in 1911. Tom Thumb and Lavinia Warren, the famous dwarfs were married in St. Paul's Church in 1863. Barnum made a big advertisement of the event. A band of five or six pieces occupied the balcony in front and played for hours in the middle of the day, alternating when the show began in the lecture room. Uncle Tom's Cabin being played on the stage in the lecture room, it was not called a theatre, as many persons objected to visiting theatres, but would witness a play on the stage in the lecture room. Kate Bateman, Susan Denin, Emily Mestayer, Chippendale, Clark, Mrs. J. J. Prior, Mr. Hathaway, Mrs. Jamieson, and many others appeared there, in the Maiden's Vow, Hidden Hand, and other thrillers. Uncle Tom's Cabin was taken from the book written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, a sister of Henry Ward Beecher, and it was the opinion of many Americans that our Civil War would not have taken place if this book had never been written.\* It was staged at the Chatham

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\*"The American Nation," "Causes of the Civil War," by Rear Admiral F. E. Chadwick, folios 59 and 148; and the "History of the American People," by Woodrow Wilson, Vol. iv, folio 160.





Theatre on July 18, 1853. The version that was portrayed was that of George L. Aiken's interpretation. He was a Bostonian, born in that city in 1830, and died in 1876, being only twenty-two years old when he dramatized the play. It ran for 325 performances, under the management of A. H. Purdy. H. J. Conway's version of the play was brought out at Bannum's Museum on November 7, 1853.

The cast of the original production at the Chatham was G. C. Germon as Uncle Tom, George L. Aiken as George Harris and George Shelby (two characters), George C. Howard as St. Clair, Charles R. Fox as Phineas Fletcher and Gumption Cute (two characters), W. J. Lemoyne as Mr. Wilson and Deacon Perry (two characters), C. Leslie Allen as Shelby, Frank E. Aiken as Marks, John Davis as Haley and Legree (two characters), Cordelia Howard as Eva, Mrs. G. C. Germon as Eliza and Cassy (two characters), Mrs. Emily Fox as Ophelia, Miss Emmons as Mrs. St. Clair, Mr. G. C. Howard as Chloe and Topsey (two characters). Most all actors took two characters in a play in those days, and a one act farce always preceded the main drama.

The first performance that I ever saw on the stage of a theatre was in Barnum's Museum. I think it was in 1849 or 1850.

The Happy Family was considered one of the most interesting of the many curiosities exhibited in the old museum. It was on the third floor, south side of the building, and consisted of a long wire cage, say about ten feet in length and four or five feet in width. Confined within this enclosure were two or three dogs, several cats, a couple of monkeys, half a dozen squirrels, a dozen white mice and rats, parrots, chickens, ducks, turkeys, quails and pheasants, also guinea-pigs, rabbits, turtles, snakes, frogs, robins, pigeons, etc., etc. It was designed to demonstrate how so many different species of animals, fowls, birds, reptiles, etc., etc., could dwell together in peace and unity.

There was also in the museum a tank containing two or





three alligators, a seal, a box of snakes, a whale. No bears, kangaroos, or lions were kept here except stuffed ones.

A few years later, July 13, 1865, at ten o'clock in the morning I happened to be on Broadway near Maiden Lane, when I saw a sheet of flame drive out the front of this old curiosity shop. It proved to be a most disastrous fire, burning the whole front on Broadway from Ann to Fulton, which embraced Knox's and White's hat stores, also destroying all buildings down Fulton Street as far as the Belmont House, and nearly reaching the "Herald" office on the corner of Nassau Street. The New York Fire Department at this time was just preparing to merge into the paid system. The bill had passed at Albany making the change, causing considerable demoralization in the volunteer system. The Brooklyn department was asked for some help, and several companies of the old volunteers came across Fulton Ferry, passing the white marble United States Hotel on the corner of Fulton and Pearl Streets and up to the fire. Among them was Atlantic Hose Co. No. 1, which lay in High Street near Fulton. This company was organized in 1835, being the oldest hose company in Brooklyn. Many prominent citizens were members thereof in its early days such as Robert Luckey, Rufus Story, Abia B. Thorn, Thomas F. Mason, Pascall C. Burke, Lyman Greene, Henry Hosford, Robert Malcolm, Ira Ketchum, and R. W. Bigley; while in its later days some of its well known members were Judge Rufus B. Cowing of New York, Henry C. Place, Charles S. Mason, E. G. Sheldon, W. R. Woodward, C. M. Fletcher, Thomas T. Knight; as also Wm. H. Langley and George P. Merrill, drygoods merchants of Worth Street; James A. Brodie, furs in Maiden Lane, J. C. Nicholson, Frank Arnold, J. H. Taylor, and Gunther K. Ackerman, formerly scribe of Tammany Hall in the days of John Kelly's leadership. The writer had the honor of being the assistant foreman of this old organization, and was in command of same at this fire.

The learned seal "Ned" was saved by Clifford Pearson, a member of Company G, Thirteenth Regiment of Brooklyn.



He took it under his arm, and, going down Fulton Street to the market, put it in Alfred Dorlon's fishtrough. The old negress, Joyce Heth, and the "What is it," who was a half-witted negro, got out safely and took refuge in the negro quarter in Church Street, from which place they likely emanated; while the white whale, which had a few pale spots on it, likely a diseased or shedding skin, and the Fee Jee mermaid, which was a stuffed monkey's skin and head with a dried fish's tail, this being in a glass case, and the woolly horse, all went up in smoke, although Southwark Engine Co. No. 38 and Humane Hose Co. No. 20, Jared A. Timpson, foreman, lay in Ann Street directly back of the museum; and Protection Engine Co. No. 5 "Honey Bee," lay in Ann Street near William, and No. 14 Engine in Church Street near Fulton, in rear of St. Paul's Church. But the proximity of these old companies of volunteers could not put down this great conflagration of that time, which destroyed this old New York landmark and tinder-box.

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## CHAPTER FIVE

**J**OHAN DECKER was Chief of the New York Fire Department at this time and in charge of this fire. Elisha Kingsland was an assistant engineer, as also Eli Bates, George Rhodes, and Bonner. These latter volunteers joined the paid system when it was inaugurated. Among some of the uptown companies was Amity Hose No. 38, which lay in Amity Street near MacDougal. They had a silver reel on their hose carriage, with silver lanterns and other silver trimmings. Most all their members were bankers, merchants, or manufacturers. Among them was Albert Weber, the great piano-maker, whose factory was in the immediate neighborhood, afterwards removing to the corner of Sixteenth Street and Seventh Avenue, also William H. Wickham, who was Mayor of New York in 1874 and president of the volunteer fire department at one period, residing on Lexington Avenue and Thirty-eighth Street. John F. Giles, of Lawrence, Giles & Co., importers on South William Street opposite Delmonico's, also resided on Lexington Avenue near Thirty-ninth Street corner. Fred Ridabock and James F. Wenman, cotton brokers, on Pearl Street.

No. 61 Hose lay in Fourth Avenue, east side, near Twenty-eighth Street, New York City. No. 28 Hose lay corner of Fifth Avenue and Twenty-first Street, east side, next door to the home of Francis B. Cutting, the great lawyer. Many of the old chiefs you would meet daily on Broadway, such as Alfred Carson, John Decker, and Harry Howard. The latter resided in Elm Street at the corner of Attorney, right in the rear of the Tombs. There was a big brass nameplate on his door, on which his name was engraved in large letters. He was decrepid the last part of his life, and was given a position in the Tax Office, really for charity.

Big 6 lay in Henry Street. Bill Tweed was at one time foreman of this company. No. 7 Engine was the first one to





have a steam engine when they came into use for fire purposes in 1863. It was pulled to fires by hand. There were two engines propelled by steam, the John G. Storm and the James G. Carey, but both proved failures. No. 36 Hose lay in Henry Street. Dan Slote and his brother Alonzo belonged to this company, also \*George Millër.

In 1865, when the change was made, and Elisha Kingsland appointed Chief of the paid system, a large number of the old volunteers went into the new department. In New York the only company that they did not recruit from to any known extent was No. 38 Hose; and in Brooklyn when the change was made in that city to the paid department in 1868-69 every company was represented except Atlantic Hose Co. No. 1, of whose membership not a solitary one took any position in the paid system.

In 1861, the Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department, which was considered a very efficient one, had about 1450 members. William H. Furey was chief engineer, and a very capable one. He was succeeded by John Cunningham, who remained chief until the paid system came into existence, which was in 1868-69. Among some of the well known old companies of this department was Washington Engine Co. No. 1, Patrick Leahy, foreman. It lay in Prospect Street near Main Street. Franklin Engine Co. No. 3, Robert Barr, foreman, Henry Street near Pineapple (Firemen's Hall). No. 2 Engine lay in South Brooklyn, William Vanderveer, foreman. Eagle Engine Co. No. 4, High Street near Fulton, Frank Spinola, foreman. He was afterwards quite a prominent Congressman. No. 5, 6 and 7 Engines lay in the Navy Yard district. Pacific No. 14 lay in Pierpont near Fulton Street, Isaac Leggett, foreman. Subsequently Fred S. Massey and Smith C. Baylis were at the head of this company. Brooklyn Engine No. 17 lay in Jay Street near Myrtle Avenue, William Burrell, foreman. No. 9 Engine lay in Carlton Avenue, Seaman Searing, foreman. No. 19 Engine lay in Pacific Street near Court, and No. 22 in

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\*Whose father, James Miller, was an assistant engineer.



Degraw Street near Court. In the later years of the Volunteer Fire Department, James Dickey was foreman of this company.

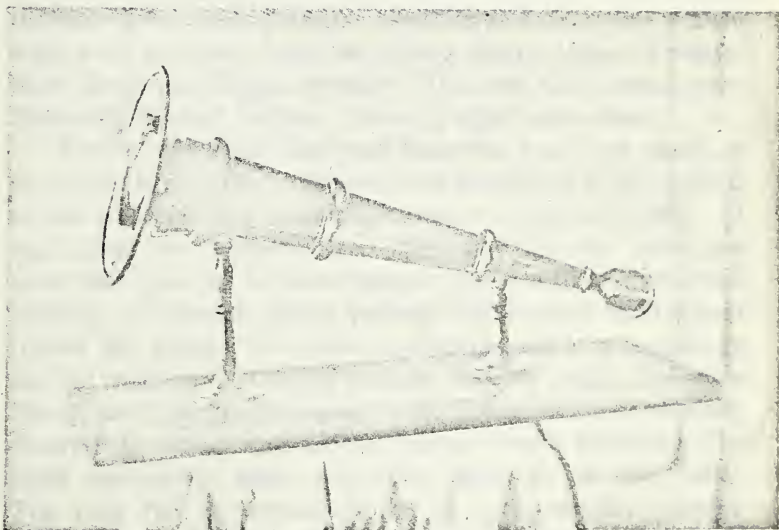
Among the Hose Companies was Atlantic Hose Co. No. 1. Richard C. Elliott, a New York lawyer, was foreman. They lay in Firemen's Hall, Henry Street, and on disbandment of No. 4 Engine they removed to their house on High Street. They were an old Company, organized in 1835, and kept up to the time of their disbandment when the paid system came into existence in every way a high-class and efficient organization. The Author of this book was foreman of same for the last three years of its existence as Volunteers.

Several noted fires took place from 1853 to 1854 in New York. One of them was the burning of part of the Greenwich Avenue Public School, where many children were lost; another was W. J. Jennings & Co.'s clothing store, 231 Broadway. Some twenty volunteer firemen were lost here. Another was the Pearl Street House, which was in Pearl Street, south side, between Coenties and Old Slips. Harper & Bros., on Franklin Square, was burned December 10, 1853. A marble tablet is now on the front of the brick warehouse where the hotel formerly stood.

Pearl Street was largely given to the hardware trade. William Bryce & Co. were at 228 in 1854; subsequently they removed to Chambers Street opposite the new City Hall (present brownstone building), used by the City Court. Pearl Street has the unique distinction of starting at the lower part of Broadway (or really State Street) and forming a crescent, ending at Broadway opposite Thomas Street. Ball, Black & Co. were at 247 Broadway before they removed to their grand marble store, southwest corner of Prince and Broadway. Tiffany, Young & Ellis being opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel so far uptown, was likely the cause of the former house removing so far away north. Lillienthal's Snuff & Tobacco Store was at the corner of Chambers and Centre Streets. McAlpin's (Same business) was in Catharine Street.

Rushton's drug store, corner of Barclay and Broadway,





Fire Trumpet presented to Thomas Floyd-Jones, Nov. 12, 1867, by members of Atlantic Hose Company, No. 1, Volunteer Fire Department, Brooklyn, L. I.





was quite prominent in its day; later a Dr. Helmbold opened an elegantly fitted up store with marble counters on Broadway, east side, just below Houston Street, and achieved quite a notoriety in advertising Helmbold's Buchu. I don't remember what it cured, but I think all the ills that man is heir to. He rode alone in Central Park behind four black horses driven by a colored driver, with two footmen in livery sitting on the rear of a big carriage, they being negroes also, something of the same style in which Jim Fisk amused himself about the same time; only the latter would have four or five women with him, actresses from the Grand Opera House, Twenty-third Street and Eighth Avenue. The four black horses were frequently hitched tandem. It was a sight to see them.

One of the most disastrous fires that ever took place, as far as the loss of life to firemen was concerned, in the records of the Brooklyn fire department, was on April 4th, 1865. It was called the Furman Street disaster. The fire broke out about half past one to two o'clock A. M., in a three-story brick building in Furman Street between Fulton and Wall Street ferries No. 93-95. The place was being used as a co-operae and oil refinery. It being situated directly under Columbia Street, and a garden belonging to the Columbia Street property covered the whole roof of the Furman Street building. The earth comprising same was fully three to six feet thick. The roof fell in, accelerated by its great weight, carrying with it in its descent a large number of firemen of the old volunteer system, who had their hose pipes in the scuttles. It came without any warning. Among those who lost their lives (bodies recovered) were Casper K. Cammeyer of Hose Co. No. 2, \*Eugene P. Baker of Hose Co. No. 8, Alexander S. Benson of Hose Co. No. 11, Joseph H. Brown, No. 17 engine, and Lewis Gardner of Hose Co. No. 5. An assistant engineer, Robert Barr, and a member of No. 17 engine, James H. Rugles, were rescued after going through to the bottom, both escaping serious injury, also William Williams, engine 17,

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\*A runner.



Michael McGibney, Hose Co. No. 5, Edward Bassett, Hose Co. No. 8, William A. Lee, Hose Co. No. 17. The escape of Hose Co. No. 1 from this holocaust seemed providential. They being one of the closest located near the fire, their route to same would have been straight through Cranberry Street, which would have placed them right on top of the building. On the alarm being received, which was a still one, the city hall bell not yet having struck, the hose carriage rolled out of the house No. 12 High Street, now covered by the entrance to the Brooklyn Bridge, and took the route directly toward Fulton Street. On reaching the corner of this street, a drunken man ran out and grabbed the end or bight of the rope, which swung the apparatus around the corner and down the Fulton Street Hill, instead of across, which was intended by the two members on the tongue. The writer of this \*episode, which for the first time has ever been written, was in command of the company. On observing the situation, he rushed at the man and pushed him to the sidewalk, when he let go of his hold on the rope, and the carriage was swung down Fulton Street. All hands jumped on and rode down the hill on the car track, and arrived at Fulton Ferry, proceeding from there to the fire on Furman Street, coming in front of the building instead of on top. This scene can never be obliterated from the vision of those who participated in it and those who miraculously escaped with their lives, now forty-eight years ago. This, the act of a drunken man, came as a blessing in disguise. The owner of the garden who occupied the Columbia Street house was a prominent and much respected Quaker citizen, named John J. Merritt.

No. 1 Truck lay in Henry Street, in Firemen's Hall, near Cranberry Street, Brooklyn. No. 2 Hose lay in Jay Street near Tillary Street. No. 4 lay in Love Lane near Henry Street. No. 3 in Hoyt near Fulton Avenue. No. 11 in Court Street near Joralemon. No. 14 in the Gowanus district, John Delmar, foreman. No. 12 in Hicks Street near State Street.

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\*The author.



## CHAPTER SIX

**T**HE Astor House built in 1836, one of the very best of the period, as it is at the present time, was located on the same site which it now occupies, Broadway, Vesey and Barclay Streets. I saw Abraham Lincoln on the steps of this renowned old hotel when he ran for the first time for the presidency in 1860, and subsequently saw his remains after his assassination by J. Wilkes Booth. They were in the New York City Hall. The line of people desiring to see same extended up Chatham Street to the Bowery. It was three A. M. when I succeeded in getting to the head of this long procession.

The vicinity of the Astor House on Broadway was the most difficult to cross of most any part of this prominent thoroughfare. Stages were the principal means of locomotion, except four- and six-horse sleighs in the winter season after a good snowfall. The sleighing would last for about two or three days. Eventually it would get all humps, then the stage companies would use picks and shovels and throw the ice and snow in the middle of Broadway three or four feet in height, so that driving down had to be done on one side and up on the other of this obstruction, which would last until rain or a thaw removed it.

It was no uncommon sight to see a block of stages or omnibuses for hours from Canal Street to the Bowling Green. Our present traffic squad, one of the really most efficient parts of the police system and which has been a great success, would have come in very handy on many occasions to unravel the tangle. There were many stage companies, each one having about thirty vehicles, among them being the old Broadway line from Forty-second Street to South Ferry; the Madison Avenue line to Wall Street Ferry from Thirty-second Street; the Fourth Avenue line from the same point went to South Ferry; the Sixth Avenue line from Forty-second Street





through Ninth and Eighth Streets, as also the Twenty-third Street line to Twenty-sixth Street and Ninth Avenue also went to South Ferry; the Fifth Avenue line from Forty-second Street to Fulton Ferry; Bleeker Street line (Yellow Bird) from Eighth Avenue and Twenty-third Street to South Ferry; Grand Street line, dry dock foot of Tenth Street to South Ferry, as also East Broadway line from Grand Street Ferry; Spring Street line, Second Street and Third Avenue to foot of Canal and Cortlandt Streets; Bowery line, Bull's Head, Twenty-fourth Street, to South Ferry. There was also a stage that left the old Bull's Head Hotel, Twenty-fourth Street and Third Avenue, at stated hours for Yorkville and Harlem on the east side, while the Bloomingdale stages ran from Thirty-third Street and Broadway (now Gimbel's Big Store), to Bloomingdale and Stryker's Bay. Most all of the proprietors of these stage lines were horsemen having many good trotters in their stables for their personal use. Sidney Nichols, of the Twenty-third Street line, who was at one time Police Commissioner and one of the organizers of the Fifth National Bank, corner of Twenty-third Street and Third Avenue, with such co-directors as Judge Richard Kelly, General Wiley, Napoleon J. Haines and his brother Francis; Thompson W. Decker the milk dealer, and Edmund Stephenson, ex-Immigration Commissioner, was often seen on the road and track. Among others was Andrews, of the Fifth Avenue line; Mr. Palmer of the Fourth Avenue line and president of the Broadway Bank, corner of Broadway and Park Place. His brownstone residence was on Madison Avenue north of Thirty-fourth Street; Mr. Marshall and Mr. Wilkins of the Broadway line; Kip and Mr. Brown of the Bleeker Street line; Murphy and Lent of the Second Street line; and Johnson and Shepherd of the Sixth Avenue line.

There were also several car lines. The Sixth Avenue line ran from Vesey Street and Broadway up West Broadway, Canal, Varick, Carmine, and Sixth Avenue to Forty-second Street. Many of these cars were drawn by mules, and on the sides of several of them appeared the sign, "Colored People



Allowed in this Car." There was also the Eighth Avenue line from the same downtown terminus up West Broadway, Canal, Hudson, and Eighth Avenue to Forty-fourth Street. George Law was the principal owner of this line. His son, young George, could be met most any day driving a good one on Harlem Lane. The Fourth Avenue line ran from Tryon Row up Centre, Broome, and Grand, Bowery, and Fourth Avenue to Thirty-second Street, and at a later date through the tunnel to Forty-second Street. The Third Avenue line ran from the City Hall up Chatham, Bowery and Third Avenue to Sixty-third Street. This road was largely owned by Henry Hart, Maltby G. Lane, and the Remsen family. The fare on both stages and cars was sixpence; and in 1861, when silver went out of circulation, postage stamps were used to pay the fare; and on a wet day, both passenger and driver suffered, where return change in stamps had to come to you through the little hole in the roof of the omnibus, all stuck together. When the shin-plaster script came into use they took the place of the postage stamps. There were no mats, but plenty of good clean straw or sedge hay on the floors of cars and stages. This kept your feet fairly warm in cold weather. There was also a Second Avenue line from Sixty-third Street down Second Avenue, through Grand Street to the Bowery and Peck Slip on the East River. The Crystal Palace at Forty-second Street and Sixth Avenue opened in 1853. It was adjoining the reservoir. Bryant Park is now on the site. This point was the end of many of the lines, the Sixth Avenue line not extending above Forty-second Street until after 1855. The bob-tailed cars only ran to Canal Street and Broadway, where they swung around and went back, one horse only being used on these. I saw the Crystal Palace burn on October 5, 1858, from the roof of my home in Waverly Place. It was a veritable tinder-box, and was quickly reduced to ashes. There was a high tower on the upper side of Forty-second Street opposite the Crystal Palace, for strangers to view the city. It was called the Latticing Observatory. There was no elevator in it, so they had to walk up, over 280 feet high. It burned down August 30, 1856.





Strolling up Park Row, passing the International, Powers' and Lovejoy's Hotels, the latter on the corner of Beekman Street, and the Brick Church, which originally stood where the old Times and Potter Buildings are at present, surrounded by graves, all of which was removed in 1856, looming up in the rear on Nassau Street, corner of Cedar, the Post Office, formerly Old Dutch Church, can be easily seen. This brings us to French's Hotel, on the corner of Frankfort Street, now the site of the World Building, while just across the street was Tammany Hall, which Building is now occupied by the New York "Sun," and where the "Staats-Zeitung" Building stood for some years, which was demolished in 1908, to make way for the Bridge enlargement, was a row of brick houses called Tryon Row, after Governor Tryon, the English governor of the Province of New York before the Revolution. These houses were erected at that time, being private residences. Law offices eventually filled them all. There were also quite a number of private residences in Beekman, Spruce, and Cliff Streets; many of them kept boarders, while across in Chambers Street near Greenwich, resided Alexander Stuart, the bachelor sugar refiner. His brother, Robert L., had resided next door, but trade beginning to creep in, he removed to his grand new house, with stables in the rear filled with fine stock, corner of Fifth Avenue and Twentieth Street. Their sugar house was on the corner of Chambers and Greenwich Streets, extending to Reade Street. It is now a cold storage plant. The two brick houses, residences of the two brothers, can still be seen in Chambers Street. Stuart's candy, broken, and sugar plums, was considered the very best. They were made of sugar. No terra Alba, glucose, or other foreign ingredients ever contaminated this world-renowned candy. Their retail store was on the corner of Hudson and Chambers Streets, now the site of a trust company. The Stuarts sold their candy business to Ridley & Co., and from that time to the present it has gone under the latter name. It was directly opposite the Hudson River railroad depot, corner of College Place and Chambers Street, with an entrance on Warren





Street. The Gerken Building now occupies part of this site, home of the "Trotter and Pacer."

The large passenger cars were towed up to Thirtieth Street and Tenth Avenue by four horses, a man going ahead of each car on a horse, waving a flag, the locomotive being attached at the Thirtieth Street passenger station.

The Girard House was on the northeast corner of Chambers and West Broadway, now called the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Many of the old three-story brick houses on Hudson, Varick, Beach, Greenwich, Laight and adjoining streets, especially around St. John's Park, became boarding houses for the retail drygoods clerks of Broadway, many of the former occupants having moved way uptown above Washington Square. James Fenimore Cooper lived at No. 3 Beach Street in 1820. University of the City of New York was on University Place facing Washington Park.

On the east side, the station of the Harlem Railroad was at White and Centre Streets, just above the Tombs, and a passenger entrance was in Canal between Centre and Broadway, also one in Broadway just below Canal; but soon after it went up to Twenty-sixth Street and Fourth Avenue, where the New Haven and Hartford and the Harlem Railroad occupied jointly the whole block as a depot. The Madison Square Garden now covers the site. The locomotives were housed at Thirty-third Street, where the Seventy-first Regiment Armory now is, and were backed down to Twenty-sixth Street to attach to trains. The first cattle yards that I can remember were in Robinson Street near Greenwich (now called Park Place). They subsequently removed to Sixth Street near Third Avenue, then to Forty-fourth Street, where the Grand Central Depot now is.

Quite a celebrated character, who was always in trouble with the police, also lived in Chambers Street, near Hudson. It was the well known Madame Restell. She removed from there into a grand, new brownstone mansion at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifty-second Street, No. 657 Fifth Avenue, and was known as the wife of Doctor Lohman. She erected



the Langham Hotel, next door to her home (both are now demolished), and most every day she could be seen riding in her carriage through Central Park, either alone or with her husband by her side. She was found dead in her bathroom one morning, April 1, 1878. It was believed that she met her end by suicide, by stabbing herself, as a large ivory handled carving knife was found beside her with the lifeblood of a vampire of the Avenue on its blade.

The old Bowery Theatre, now called the Thalia, on whose boards many prominent actors appeared, such as John Brougham, Chanfrau, George L. Fox, Mrs. Jones, Mary Taylor, Fanny Herring, and others; also many blood-curdling dramas were enacted here, such as "Jack Sheppard," "Oliver Twist," and "The Three Guardsmen." It is still in existence, on the west side of the Bowery just below Canal Street, being used for plays in the Yiddish language. The Atlantic Garden was next door north. It cost one shilling to go in the pit (now the orchestra). It was generally packed solid with newsboys, while the select part of the house was the balcony. The price for seats here was four shillings. The top gallery was one and two shillings. Negroes were only allowed in the upper part of the house, next the roof.

Will retrograde to the City Hall Park, not going through the Five Points to get there, which locality was most dangerous to traverse, either by day or night. The "Dead Rabbit" riots on July 3, 1857, were in Bayard Anthony, Mulberry, Elizabeth and Centre Streets, being between the Roach Guards of Mulberry Street and the Atlantic Guards of the Bowery, —one vicious element of the lower strata arrayed against another of the same kind. The streets were barricaded with wagons, boxes, or anything that they could obtain as breastworks. Paving stones and pistols were their weapons. This riot was put down by the Seventh Regiment. The Mission House which was erected in the Five Points was the chief means of cleaning up this vile spot. The Quarantine riots occurred in 1858, the buildings all being destroyed by a fire on Staten Island, September 1st.





Looking across City Hall Park, quite a commotion is observed there. It proves to be a fight between the police under the control of the mayor and the newly appointed commissioners under the head of the new police system. This took place June 16 in 1857. Fernando Wood was mayor and his men were called M. P.'s, which, it is said in the vernacular of the street, meant "Mayor's Pups," the proper name being Municipal Police. The Metropolitan system was inaugurated at Albany when John A. King of Jamaica was governor. Commissioners were appointed, but the mayor would not recognize them in any way. This led to a descent on the City Hall, and a clash ensued between the two opposing interests. The Seventh Regiment was going down Broadway at the time on their way to Boston by boat, it being under the command of Colonel Abraham Duryea. They were stopped and called upon to allay the disturbance. The mayor was threatened with arrest. It eventually ended in his giving up the struggle after considerable blood spilling, and the Metropolitan Police System was inaugurated, which has continued from that day to the present, being looked upon as one of the best in the world. This scrimmage was called the Police Riot.

General Hall was in command of the Militia of New York of this division. The first police commissioners appointed were Simeon Draper, James W. Nye, and Jacob Caldwell, all of New York City. Police Headquarters was in the basement of the City Hall. George W. Matsell was Chief for many years (1853). He resided in Allen Street near Grand, and after his retirement from the police department he edited the paper called "The Police Gazette." John A. Kennedy became Chief a few years afterward. Although a small man in size he was as brave as a lion, and a terror to evildoers. The new Police Headquarters in Mulberry Street near Houston was established during the incumbency of Supt. Kennedy, he being the first one to occupy the same officially. The principal Police Justices of those days were Judge Dowling, Hogan, Finn, and Richard Kelly, who subsequently was president of the Fifth National Bank, corner of Twenty-third Street and Third Avenue.





## CHAPTER SEVEN

**I**T was only a few years after this when the City Hall Park presented a very different appearance. In April, 1861, barracks for the soldiers extended from Chambers Street on Broadway to the foot of the park, and up Park Row to Spruce Street, being erected inside of the iron railing which surrounded the City Hall Park, and which was used largely by venders of songs, they being strung along on wires against the fence. Some of these were "Ben Bolt," "Father, dear Father, come home with me now," "Listen to the Mocking Bird," "The Old Oaken Bucket," "Yankee Doodle," "Suwanee River," "Way down South in Dixie," "When this Cruel War is over," "Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me," and all the popular songs of those days, many of the war songs being written by Charles Carroll Sawyer.

The famous Seventh Regiment, under command of Colonel Marshall T. Lefferts, had been down Broadway April 19th, on their way to Washington, where they were camped for thirty days, as it was expected that the war would not last much longer than that. The writer saw them there in May, 1861, the day they broke camp and were to return to New York, their time having expired. Many threats were made that it would be hot for them going through Baltimore, but these rumors proved to be idle, as they were not molested in any way and arrived safely at their armory on Third Avenue and Seventh Street, and subsequently many hundred of the members recruited many companies which were formed into regiments, enlisting for the war, they going out as officers of the same.

The 13th Regiment of Brooklyn, Colonel Abel Smith, commander; Robert Clark, Lieut.-Colonel, Joseph Leggett, Major, and E. L. Molineux, Adjutant, whose armory was on Henry Street corner of Cranberry, stopped in the New York City Hall Park barracks before taking steamers for Annapo-



lis, Md., in May, 1861, on their thirty-day campaign. Later they went to the front, enlisting for three months. On the thirty-day call they took out over 1200 men. Company G, under command of Capt. Richard Van Wyck Thorne, Jr., took out over 200 men in his company alone.

On the Thirteenth Regiment leaving Brooklyn the first time, a kind of Home Guard was instituted. A company was formed in Apollo Hall, which was in Jay Street near Sands, by a Mr. Frothingham, assisted by Capt. William Everdell, who died in 1912. I saw them drill with canes, and if I remember rightly, this small band was the nucleus of the celebrated Twenty-third Regiment of Brooklyn. They were composed of ex-members of the old City and Light Guard of Brooklyn.

The Fourteenth Regiment of Brooklyn, Colonel Alfred M. Wood, and the Forty-eighth, Colonel Bennett in Williamsburg, both enlisted for the three-months campaign, the same as the Thirteenth. The Fourteenth was in the first battle of Bull Run. Colonel Wood was captured and kept in Libby Prison a long while. On his return, he was elected Mayor of Brooklyn.

Resuming our stroll, going through Chambers Street, Burton's Theatre is passed, the American News Co. Building now being on the site. William Burton was considered the greatest actor of his day in humorous parts. I saw him play "Toodles" in this theatre. Mrs. Russell, who afterwards married John Hoey, president of Adams Express Co., began her career in this house. On the corner of Broadway, extending to Reade Street, was the great wholesale and retail drygoods house of A. T. Stewart & Co. His partner, Mr. Wm. Libby, who resided in Park Avenue corner of Thirty-seventh Street, and had his country place at Inwood, was a well known driver on the old Bloomingdale road to Jones' Claremont. Mr. Hopkins, their head bookkeeper, also resided at Inwood, driving in daily. The Stewart store is still in existence, being now occupied by many city departments. Mr. Stewart's residence was in Dapau Row, Bleecker Street, corner of Greene. He



subsequently moved to the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street.

Jones' Claremont was a great place during the sleighing season. It was really the last roadhouse to reach, with one or two exceptions, so the sheds were crowded, and it was open house all night. Out on the lawn close to the river bank stood that little solitary marble monument surrounded by an iron fence, with this inscription on the side of the stone:

To an amiable child  
'Liester Pollock.

He was the son of an Englishman who was visiting the family who resided in this old mansion before the Revolution. The monument is still there, adjacent to the magnificent tomb of General U. S. Grant.

The most distant roadhouse of all reached on an afternoon's drive was on the Kingsbridge road, called the Kingsbridge Hotel, just after crossing the bridge from Manhattan Island on to Isle of Manhattan, where it was located. Its rear was directly upon the Spuyten Duyvill Creek. There oysters, clams, and fish were kept fresh. It was largely patronized all the year round.

Quite well do I remember the advent in New York in 1860 of Ellmer Ellsworth of Chicago. He was a young lawyer there, and organized a company of young men of the fraternity, the members of which agreed to abstain from the use of liquor, tobacco, and all sorts of immorality. They were trained by Ellsworth until they worked with great skill, and went through all the east giving exhibition drills. They gave one in the City Hall Park and were very proficient. I saw one of them in Chicago in 1886, when he had become quite aged—a Mr. John Long. I called to his mind that I had seen them drill on the plaza in front of the City Hall. When the war broke out in 1861, Ellmer Ellsworth saw his chance and came to New York with a commission to recruit a regiment, he having procured same at Washington on his way to New York.





- His first appeal was to the New York Fire Department to form a regiment of Zouaves, and in less than a week 1200 able bodied men, accustomed to all kinds of hardships, presented themselves for enlistment. They had red shirts, grey jackets and trousers, and on April 29, 1861, I saw them as they marched down Broadway, escorted by the Fire Department and an immense crowd of citizens. They sailed on the old Collins side wheel steamship "Baltic." If I remember rightly, they landed either at Annapolis or Baltimore, and thence to Washington, D. C. Their first experience on arriving there was to save Willard's Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue from fire, with which it was threatened. The Washington Fire Department was very inferior, so the city officers sent for the Zouaves. That made the local firemen jealous, so they cut the hose, and did all they could to obstruct them. The fire was early in the morning in the Fields Building, which adjoined the hotel. There were no ladders, so the firemen used the lightning-rods and got on the roof that way. The Fields Building was pulled down very quickly, and Willard's was saved from flakes of fire falling on the roof. It was only three or four weeks after this event that I stayed at Willard's for a day.

Ellsworth's career was very short, as he was shot by a man named James W. Jackson, proprietor of the Marshall House, Alexandria, Va., when he rushed into same to tear down a Confederate flag flying from a flagstaff on the roof. Jackson was immediately shot by Serjeant Frank H. Brownell. Upon the death of Colonel Ellsworth, Noah L. Farnham, Lieut.-Colonel, who was formerly a member of Hook and Ladder No. 1, became colonel. He was wounded at the battle of Bull Run, and died from the effects.

On the corner of West Broadway and Franklin Streets stood the Fifth Ward Hotel. It was quite a novel place, as it had a large exhibit of stuffed birds, mounted and in glass cases, —the finest exhibit in New York, really a museum. In front of this hotel stood a high Liberty pole, which was used by the volunteer firemen in matches of hand engines, to see which



company was superior in throwing water the highest. There was great rivalry in this regard.

On Broadway at the corner of Warren Street was the large clothing house of D. Devlin & Co. The first tunnel under Broadway, built in 1869, was directly in front of their store, which was on the southwest corner. It was called the Beach pneumatic tunnel. It was about thirty or forty feet long, built of brick, with rounded roof and base, with a car about thirty feet long in same, of cylindrical pattern, fitting close to the sides of the tube, so as to exhibit what an underground road was. The entrance was through the Devlin store. Twenty-five cents was charged for any one to see this first underground road in New York City. It never went any farther, and the hole was removed in 1913 for the Broadway subway. Another tunnel existed in Atlantic Street, Brooklyn, from Boerum Street to Columbia near South Ferry. It belonged to the Long Island Railroad. Both ends were closed up when the road changed its depot to Hunter's Point, now Long Island City.

That little brownstone building on Broadway, just below the corner of Chambers, was the great Chemical Bank, organized by the Jones and Mason families. The front was lately changed to granite. Its president was John Q. Jones; the cashier was George G. Williams. It was the only bank in New York that did not stop specie payment in the panic of 1857. On the northwest corner of Chambers Street stood the old Irving House, where the great Adams and Colt murder case of an earlier period occurred. Jenny Lind stayed at this hotel when she sang here at Castle Garden. This building was subsequently occupied by Delmonico as a restaurant. The Broadway-Chambers now covers the spot. The New York Hospital, with its high iron fence, was on Broadway, west side, directly opposite Pearl Street, while just above Pearl, on the east side, was the old Broadway Theatre. Teft, Weller & Co.'s store is now on this site. Christian Shaffer had a grand saloon in the basement thereof. I saw Forrest play "Metamora" in this house, also saw Ed Eddy in "Herne, the Hunter," Adah Isaacs





Menken in "Mazeppa," Hackett as "Falstaff," and that grand old actor, William Blake, in "The last Man." He now lies in Greenwood adjacent to Harry Placide's grave. John Jack as Falstaff, a member of Forrest's company, with Lucille Western, also appeared at this theatre. Appleton & Co., the large publishing house, was on the next corner, now occupied by the New York Life Insurance Co. Building. It was a large store, which they occupied on the corner of Anthony Street.

Williams, Stevens & Williams had a picture store on Broadway east side, just above Leonard. I well remember a large colored picture in their show window, entitled the "Seasons." I know of only two now in existence, which are in the Author's family. Gosling's restaurant was on Broadway below Canal Street. Meelio's hat store was on the corner of Canal and Broadway, and James' hat store was on Broadway, west side, under the St. Nicholas Hotel. Florence's Hotel was at the corner of Walker Street, east side of Broadway.

When the New York Hospital moved up-town to West Fifteenth Street, the old grounds were sold to various parties, and the present location of the drygoods trade was established. Thomas Street being cut through to Broadway, and the name of Anthony Street changed to Worth Street after General Worth, of Mexican War fame. William C. Langley, who removed from lower Broadway, was one of the first to locate there. He resided at Bay Ridge, Long Island, where he had the largest and finest stable of trotting and carriage horses in Kings County, or on Long Island. His four-horse team of that period was the talk of the day, and they would invariably capture the first premium at the Queens County Fairs at Hempstead, Jamaica and Flushing, they being held at these towns alternately every three years, in the largest field obtainable, the horse ring being very small. The great Mineola grounds succeeded the former primitive exhibition grounds. Mr. Langley always drove from his home to the Hamilton Ferry daily on his way to his business in New York. His son, William H. Langley, who succeeded his father, was equal-



the first of the year, the weather was very cold, and the wind was very strong, so that the ships were not able to go to sea. The ships were therefore kept in the harbor, and the crews were ordered to stay on board. The weather continued to be very cold, and the wind continued to be very strong, so that the ships were not able to go to sea. The ships were therefore kept in the harbor, and the crews were ordered to stay on board. The weather continued to be very cold, and the wind continued to be very strong, so that the ships were not able to go to sea. The ships were therefore kept in the harbor, and the crews were ordered to stay on board.

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ly as fond of horses, and it took a clipper to head him on the old Brooklyn roads.

Journeying along, I glance down to Church Street. This street was lined with negro hotels, lodging houses, and other miscellaneous places—in fact, the Tenderloin of that time began at Duane Street, extended up Church, taking in parts of Leonard and White Streets, thence to Canal, through Greene, Laurens and Mercer to Amity Street on the west of Broadway, and from Anthony Street through Elm and Crosby to Bleecker Street on the east side of Broadway. Truly a large hotbed of vice. Harry Jennings' place was in White Street, near West Broadway. It was the scene nightly of chicken controversies, dog fights, and rat-killing matches. Taylor's restaurant, or ice-cream saloon, with its grand fountains and marble tables and floors, was on the corner of Franklin Street. It was, when erected, considered the finest of its kind in America, if not in the world. The Brandreth House was at the corner of Canal and Broadway, being owned by Dr. Brandreth, of pill fame, who had his factory and residence at Sing Sing. John Ireland's Chop and Ale House was in Lispenard Street, being one of the best of its kind. It was called the Star. Cobweb Hall was on Duane Street, south side, east of Broadway. It was not known very well in those days, but in late years got its special mention as an old landmark, English chophouse and alehouse, by its whimsical or euphonistic appellation. It is still on the same site. The most elegant saloons besides Taylor's and the Maison Doree was the Gem, corner of Broadway and Worth Street. The bar and walls were covered with mirrors. Solaris, northwest corner of Eleventh Street and University Place, was quite a noted place for a good meal.

Other places of similar kind as the Star was the Shakespeare Inn, southwest corner of Broadway and Thirteenth Street, and the Grapevine, southwest corner of Sixth Avenue and Thirteenth Street. Only a little way above the latter place, on Sixth Avenue between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets on the west side of the Avenue, in the late fifties, was



the celebrated Palace Garden. It was formerly an old half country residence in the center of the block, a large frame house with a piazza around it. The grounds were laid out with gravelled walks and flower-beds, being illuminated with rows of iron pipes with gas jets in red, white and blue globes. Instrumental music was furnished of the best description. The refreshments being ice cream, lemonade, and cake. This place was well patronized in the hot summer months, the theatres being closed. It was the only place of its kind on the west side where beer was not sold. A sherry cobbler or claret punch was obtainable, but no cocktails or champagne. At the corner of Waverly Place and Sixth Avenue the Greenwich Savings Bank was located and opposite Amity Street on the west side of Sixth Avenue the well known old house of J. and R. Lamb, makers of interior church fixtures, were located, enjoying the same reputation in their line as the Jardines and Roosevelts did in church organ building.

Solomon & Hart, carpets, was on Broadway near Walker; Union Adams, gents furnishings goods, on Broadway near Eighth; the principal piano manufacturers in the fifties and early sixties were: Nunns & Clark; J. & C. Barmore; J. & C. Fischer; Bradbury; Nunns & Fischer; David Dunham; Grove & Christopher; P. T. Gale & Bros., East Twelfth Street and Third Avenue; Raven & Bacon; Stoddard, Wooster & Dunham; Lindeman & Son, Bleecker Street; Decker & Barnes, Third Avenue and Fifteenth Street; Haines Bros., Fourteenth Street and Third Avenue, subsequently Twenty-first Street and Second Avenue; Hazleton & Bros; Steinway & Sons; Albert Weber; Steck; Kranich & Bach; Decker Bros. James & Holstrom and Mehlin came along at a later period.

The principal sheet music houses being: Hall & Sons, and William A. Pond & Son.

The principal houses in the stationery trade being: George F. Nesbitt & Co., Pearl Street; Nathan Lane & Co., Wall near Pearl; Corlies & Macy, Nassau Street corner of Liberty; Root & Anthony, Nassau Street near Cedar; Hosford &





Co., Cedar Street, all being in the banking district; and Francis & Loutrel; D. Duyckinck.

The retail drygoods trade extended then from Chambers Street to Grand. Miller & Grant were near Lispenard Street; Arnold, Constable & Co. were on the corner of Canal and Mercer, running through to Howard Street; while Le Boutilliers' was next door on Canal Street. Hearn's was just above Howard Street, and Lord & Taylor on the corner of Grand. They also had another extensive store on Grand Street near Allen, having removed there from Catharine Street near East Broadway. Beck & Co., and Ubsdell, Pearson & Lake were on Broadway near White Street. The latter firm merged into Lake & McCreery. The Westchester House was at the corner of the Bowery and Broome Street, owned by a Mr. Mathews, now the Occidental. J. H. Johnson's jewelry store being on the northwest corner opposite.

The retail clothing trade was largely in Fulton Street. Raymond's was on the corner of Nassau; Smith Bros. were on Fulton Street just east of Nassau. They were succeeded by B. Hagerman & Co. Next door to them was Tredwell, Jarman & Slote. On the corner of Greenwich was the store of Aaron Close. P. C. Barnum & Co. was in Chatham Square; Frank Baldwin's was in the Bowery near Canal; and Brooks Bros. were on the northeast corner of Grand and Broadway. E. V. Haughwout & Co. were on the northeast corner of Broome, while Mitchell, Vance & Co. were on the east side of Broadway just north of Houston Street. These two concerns were the largest manufacturers of gas fixtures, bronzes, etc., in New York. E. V. Haughwout was one of the organizers of the Union Dime Savings Institution and was its first president when it first opened, on the corner of Canal and Varick Streets. His residence was on Twenty-first Street opposite Gramercy Park, his near neighbors being Cyrus W. Field on the corner of Lexington Avenue, and his brother, the great lawyer, David Dudley Field, being next door. Peter Cooper and Abram S. Hewitt resided adjoining on Lexington Avenue. The old Carlton House was on the corner of Walker Street,





east side of Broadway, Earl's Hotel being on the corner of Canal and Centre Streets. Thompson's ice cream saloon was on Broadway above Spring Street, west side, near the Chinese Assembly Rooms. The latter was occupied by Barnum, September 6, 1865, as a museum after he was burned out on the corner of Ann. But his stay at the new place was only for a limited period, as on a cold day in winter it was completely destroyed by fire, March 3, 1868. It was so cold at this fire that the water froze as fast as it struck the building, and the next morning the front of same, which was of granite, was covered with a sheet of ice, resembling a miniature Niagara Falls. Masonic Hall subsequently Gothic Hall was on the east side of Broadway, 314 and 316 just below Pearl Street. It was famous for model artists. Mozart Hall was on Broadway near Houston Street. The Fernando Wood democracy occupied it at one time as their headquarters.

Old Apollo Hall was on Broadway, east side, below Canal Street, and the city assembly rooms were at 444 Broadway. Many dances or balls have I attended at both of these places, firemen's at the former and the Liederkrantz at the latter. Brook's dancing academy was at 336 Broome Street near the Bowery, where I first attempted the light fantastic in my patent leather pumps. Dodworth's was the swell dancing academy on Broadway, east side, near Houston Street. The theatre at 444 was the home of minstrelsy, it being the headquarters of Christy's Minstrels. Bryants' Minstrels were at 472 Broadway, Mechanics' Library Hall. Dan, Neil and Jerry were the original Bryants. George Christy was the principal one in this troupe at 444 Broadway. His real name was Harrington. It being sometimes called Christy and Wood's Minstrels, as Henry Wood was interested with George Christy. The City Assembly Rooms were in the same building, which was destroyed twice by fire.

E. P. Christy was the original one of the name who made negro minstrelsy popular. He had a troupe at 472 Broadway, which was in the Apprentices Library or rather Mechanics' Library Building, previous to the Bryants taking that house.



The popular song, "Way Down South in Dixie," which was written by Daniel Decatur Emmett in the spring of 1859, was first sung in this house. I heard it sung there before the war, and the music played by the bands in the political processions of the fall of 1860, at which time the four tickets, Lincoln and Hamblin, Douglas and Johnson, Breckenridge and Lane, and Bell and Everett, were in the field for Presidency and Vice Presidency, Dixie being the popular tune for all the parties. When John C. Fremont was the first Republican candidate for President in 1855 this song was not known. Fremont at that time resided on the upper side of Ninth Street, just east of Sixth Avenue, the store of Park & Tilford being on the corner. His wife was a great favorite. Her name was Jessie Benton, being a daughter of Tom Benton, a Western celebrity.

Sherwood Campbell sang here in burnt cork. He subsequently appeared in English opera at the Grand Opera House, with the Caroline Ritchings troupe (Mrs. Bernard, daughter of Peter Ritchings). His rendition of the song, "The Heart Bowed Down," was considered grand. Tom Prendergast, who lived in Brooklyn, was one of this same troupe of minstrels, as also G. W. Griffin, John Wilde, Bartholomew, and the great comic impersonators, Mulligan and Nelse Seymour. William Castle belonged to the Christy minstrels. He subsequently graduated into the English opera, and belonged to the choir of Dr. Farley's Unitarian Church, on Monroe Place, Brooklyn. In his latter years he resided in Chicago and died there in 1909.

During the summer season of 1858 the stage of No. 472 Broadway was occupied by the Wood and Marsh combination of children, they playing many of the principal pieces. I can well remember Black Eyed Susan. They were fine little actors and actresses. During their engagement the theatre was called Broadway Varieties. Odd Fellows Hall was corner of Grand Street and Center. Board of Education Building being corner of Elm and Grand Street.



## CHAPTER EIGHT

**T**HE Broadway House was on the corner of Grand, while the magnificent St. Nicholas Hotel, of white marble, erected 1850, was on Broadway from Spring Street south extending through to Mercer Street. The Prescott House was on the upper corner of Spring and Broadway. Tiffany, Young & Ellis, the great silver and jewelry house, were directly opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel. A. Rumrill & Co. were on the corner of Murray and Broadway, and Seymour Hoyt & Co., corner of Fulton and Water; and Welch in Greenwich Street near Vesey. These three last were the principal downtown jewelry retailers. Wood & Hughes were on John Street. They were principally silversmiths.

Wallack's Theatre was on the west side of Broadway, No. 485, just below Broome Street. It was formerly called Brougham's Lyceum. The stock company of this theatre was second to none in America, being composed of such well known and great actors as Joseph Jefferson, Lester Wallack, John Brougham, Harry Placide, William Davidge, Mark Smith, E. L. Johnson, T. B. Johnston, Harry Pearson, Walcott, Wheatley, Bangs, Parsloe, Chippendale, Dolly Davenport, Edward Soth-ern, Charles Fisher, John Gilbert, J. H. Stoddart, James Lewis, and W. R. Floyd; while the actresses were Mrs. John Hoey, Mary Gannon, Fanny Morant, Madame Ponisi, Mrs. Jane Vernon, Rose Eytinge, Jane Combs, Effie Germon, and Madaline Henriques. She was of the old Henriques family, who were stock brokers and resided in Bank Street. Mrs. John Hoey, while she was a member of Wallack's company, resided at 331 West Twenty-third Street, subsequently removing to a grand brownstone house on Fifth Avenue, west side, near Twenty-eighth Street.

Many others of note appeared at this theatre on stated occasions, among them being Dion Boucicault and his wife, Agnes Robertson, in "Jessie Brown; or, the Siege of Luck-





now," a drama founded on the Indian Mutiny. Matilda Heron in "Camille" and "Medea," in 1857, supported by both Lester Wallack and Edward Sothorn, she being the wife of Robert Stoepel, the composer, dying in New York in 1877, the funeral taking place at the Church of the Transfiguration. I always considered that Matilda Heron was one of the best of American actresses. Others were Barney Williams and his wife, who resided at Bath, Long Island. His real name was Barnard Flaherty, and this is the name which is on his monument on Battle Hill in Greenwood Cemetery; Billy Florence and his wife in "Caste" and "The Ticket-of-Leave Man." Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Florence were sisters, their maiden name being Pray. Mrs. Maria Kathleen Williams died on May 6, 1911, in her eighty-sixth year. They had another sister, who was the wife of James Bevins, who kept a hostelry close to the Centerville track. Mr. Bevins subsequently became the bell-ringer of the Jefferson Market fire tower. One of his daughters married a son of Mrs. John Hoey. There was also James W. Wallack in "The Veteran," an East Indian comedy; also appearing as Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice." John E. Owens in "The Victims" as Joshua Batterby, and as Solon Shingle in "The People's Lawyer."

Well do I remember in the trial scene of this drama the figure of "Justice" blindfolded being painted upon the scenery over the judge's desk. Owens glances up at it and remarks to the Court: "Judge, is that your sore-eyed sister up there?"

The Metropolitan Hotel, a large brownstone building, was on the corner of Prince and Broadway, extending to Crosby Street. It had a large frontage north on Broadway, built in 1852. I stood on this corner on October 11, 1860, and saw the Prince of Wales, late King Edward of England, pass in his carriage, sitting beside the Duke of Newcastle, the mayor of the city, Fernando Wood, being also of the party, with Lord Lyons, the English minister. He landed at the Battery. The revenue cutter "Harriet Lane," named after James Buchanan's niece, had been sent to take him on board



at Amboy, and at 2:30 he and his suite entered Castle Garden through the Water Gate.

Only a few years later Prince Albert's brother George, the sailor prince, visited New York. I saw him at the ball given in his honor at the Academy of Music. The Duke Alexis of Russia was here in 1871, at the launching of the "Grand Admiral," a man of war built here for the Russian Navy. I attended a reception given to him at the Brooklyn Navy Yard by Rear Admiral Melancthon Smith, who was in command there at that time. Admiral Smith was in command of the steamer "Mississippi" with Farragut at New Orleans, \*George Dewey being his first officer. He died at Green Bay, Wis., in 1893, and was buried there.

Niblo's Garden was in the rear of the Metropolitan Hotel. Noted ones played on the stage of this theatre, such as Charlotte Cushman as "Meg Merrilies" and as Romeo in "Romeo and Juliet." She died in Boston, February 18, 1876. Mrs. John Wood, Maggie Mitchell in "The Cricket on the Hearth;" Edwin Forrest in "Richard the Third" and in other characters; E. L. Davenport, Dan Harkins, and later the Ravels, with Bonfanti, the great dancer; also Margaret Mather, Lydia Thompson in "Ixion," and the "Black Crook" and "White Fawn." The precursors of the leg drama, which was tame in comparison with the scanty clad drama of the present day, Buckley's Serenaders, opened a new theatre at 587 Broadway in 1856, subsequently occupied by the San Francisco Minstrels, at which Billy Birch, Bernard, Wambold, Charley Bachus, and Eugene, the wench dancer, appeared. Toney Pastor later took this theatre. Lillian Russell and May Irwin appeared here. Pauline Markam was the beauty and the principal one in the "Black Crook" cast. She was a British blonde, and came here with Lydia Thompson and Harry Beckert. This spectacular drama was produced later under the lesseeship of Jarret & Palmer, and had an unprecedented run in 1866 to 1868. Niblo's stage, which was a large one,

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\*Admiral 1914.



was also used by a circus company, the ring being directly on the front, which was considered quite an innovation for a theatre. Melville, Stone, and Sebastian were the great bare-back riders of the time, Dan Rice taking a prominent part, that of the Clown. Nat Austin was a proficient ring master.

Gabriel, Antoine, Jerome and Francois Ravel were wonders. I well remember one of the four brothers taking the part of a monkey. I think the pantomime was called "Jocko the Brazilian Ape." The stage at Niblo's Garden had more trap doors on it than any other theatre in New York, so came in handy for their uses in pantomime. A Japanese troupe of acrobats appeared here in the early sixties, Little Allright being the idol of the troupe. He would slide on a wire from the top gallery to the stage, and on landing would exclaim "Allright," which brought down the house.

Niblo's Garden was the first theatre that had an illuminated sign, it being the name "Niblo's," composed of gas jets in red, white and blue glass cups strung on an iron pipe. It stood out very prominent and was much admired, as quite something very odd. I will leave the reader to imagine the difference between this crude makeup as compared with those of the present day, as represented on the Great White Way, or in many other parts of New York, even in 125th Street, which at night is as light as day.

On the west side of Broadway, just a few doors below, near Prince Street, Stanwix Hall was located, No. 579. This place was the rendezvous of prize fighters, gamblers, and sporting men of every description. It was particularly made memorable as being the place in which Bill Poole was shot, February 24, 1855, he dying March 8, 1855, at his home. Many prominent individuals of this fraternity were mixed up in this disgraceful imbroglio, among them being James Irving, who resided in Twenty-first Street east of Second Avenue, next to the old Haines Bros.' piano factory; also Paudeen and a man named Baker, also James Turner. Paudeen's real name was McLaughlin.

The finger of Justice pointed toward Baker as the per-





petrator of this foul deed, shooting a man down like a dog without a chance to defend himself. Baker escaped on a schooner for the South, the "Isabella Jewett," which was owned by George Law; but the authorities sent the fast sailing clipper "Grape Shot" after him. He was captured at sea and brought back to New York, was tried for murder, but was not convicted. Bill Poole was a second rate prize fighter, having been born in America. He fought John Morrissey on the Amos Street (now West Tenth Street) pier and got the best of the argument. Poole belonged to the Know Nothings, an organization which existed at that time (1854-55) prejudicial to foreigners, especially the Irish. His funeral took place on a Sunday from his residence at 164 Christopher Street, it being a public one. The coffin was draped with the American flag, with the following inscription on same: "I die a true American." It was said that these were his last words. This blight on Stanwix Hall soon caused its closing up, in April, 1855-56. Lafayette Hall was a few doors above nearer Houston Street on the same side of Broadway. It had a large billiard room in the rear on Mercer Street, with a large hall over same used for drilling purposes, and the company quarters of Captain Shumway's command, 7th Regiment, as also quarters of the Light Guard, Captain Ned Vincent, who was formerly Captain of the Tompkins Blues. The City Guard, whose rooms were opposite on Broadway, were their greatest rivals. Both of these independent companies eventually merged into what is now known as "The Old Guard," they being the nucleus of these grand old veterans. Lafayette Hall was the principal headquarters of all the old-time trotting horse element. Many of the butchers of Center, Washington, Fulton, Jefferson, and Spring Street markets all owned good trotters, and after closing their stalls in the afternoon you would always meet them on the road and later at some of the Broadway resorts, generally at Lafayette Hall or Vauxhall Garden, kept by Harry Jones, as there were many public stables in this vicinity on Mercer Street and a large one under Ottignon's Gymnasium, in Crosby Street near Bleecker. Dusenbury and Van Duser had



their light wagon works on Crosby Street further down. R. M. Stivers and Brewster also made fine wagons. Frank Bellow's stable was at the corner of Crosby and Prince Streets.

In 1853 Corporal Thompson's old road house, called Madison Cottage, stood on the west side of Broadway at Twenty-third Street. This location was the beginning of the dirt road after getting off the paved streets. This landmark was removed in 1854 and the Franconi Hippodrome was built on the block front, Broadway, 23d to 24th Street. It was here that chariot races were first installed in America, and there was hardly a day passed but that an accident of some kind happened in this immense equestrian arena, many of them being fatal. It was not a paying venture, as the people were always afraid of some mishap to mar their pleasure. The ring was soon obliterated, and the magnificent Fifth Avenue Hotel was erected on the site by Paran Stevens and Amos Eno.

Broadway subsequently was paved with cobblestones to Thirty-fourth Street (where the Macy and Herald Buildings now stand), making this the starting point of the dirt road which led out to Finley's half mile track, which was at about Seventy-third Street and Broadway; Bloomingdale, Stryker's Bay and Jones' Claremont Hotel, as also to Burnham's road house at Eighty-fourth Street, and the Abbey, at 102d Street and North River. Mathew Brennan, who was at one time sheriff, lived on Broadway near 84th Street. Fernando Wood, the mayor, had a large place on Broadway at Seventy-sixth Street. In this vicinity resided Jerry and Neil Bryant, the great negro minstrels. Hosea Perkins lived at quite a distance up Broadway, 172d Street, as also Lawson N. Fuller. Both Mr. Perkins and Mr. Fuller were enthusiastic horsemen. The latter was often seen driving four horses. Benjamin Wood, proprietor of the "Daily News," brother of Fernando Wood, lived in West Twenty-third Street near Ninth Avenue. Many of the habitués of Lafayette Hall could well remember that grand gray mare, Lady Suffolk. It was believed that she could beat all creation at the trotting gait, and truly she carried this out, being almost invincible. I not only heard her praises



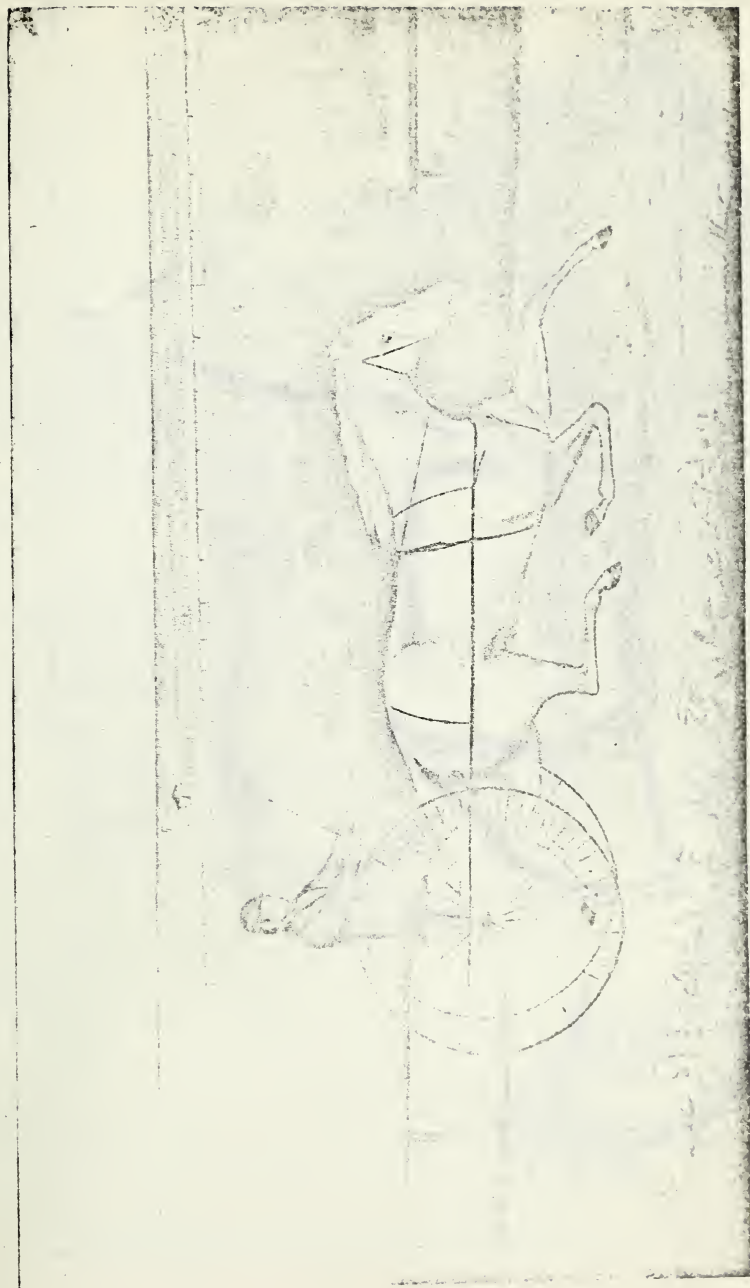
\*LADY SUFFOLK

Sired by ENGINEER 2nd; Grand Sire IMPORTED MESSENGER, Running Horse; Dam by PLATO, Running Horse; Sire of PLATO, IMPORTED MESSENGER. Foaled 1833. Died at Bridgeport, Vermont, March 7, 1855, aged 22 years.

\*From Trotter and Pacer.

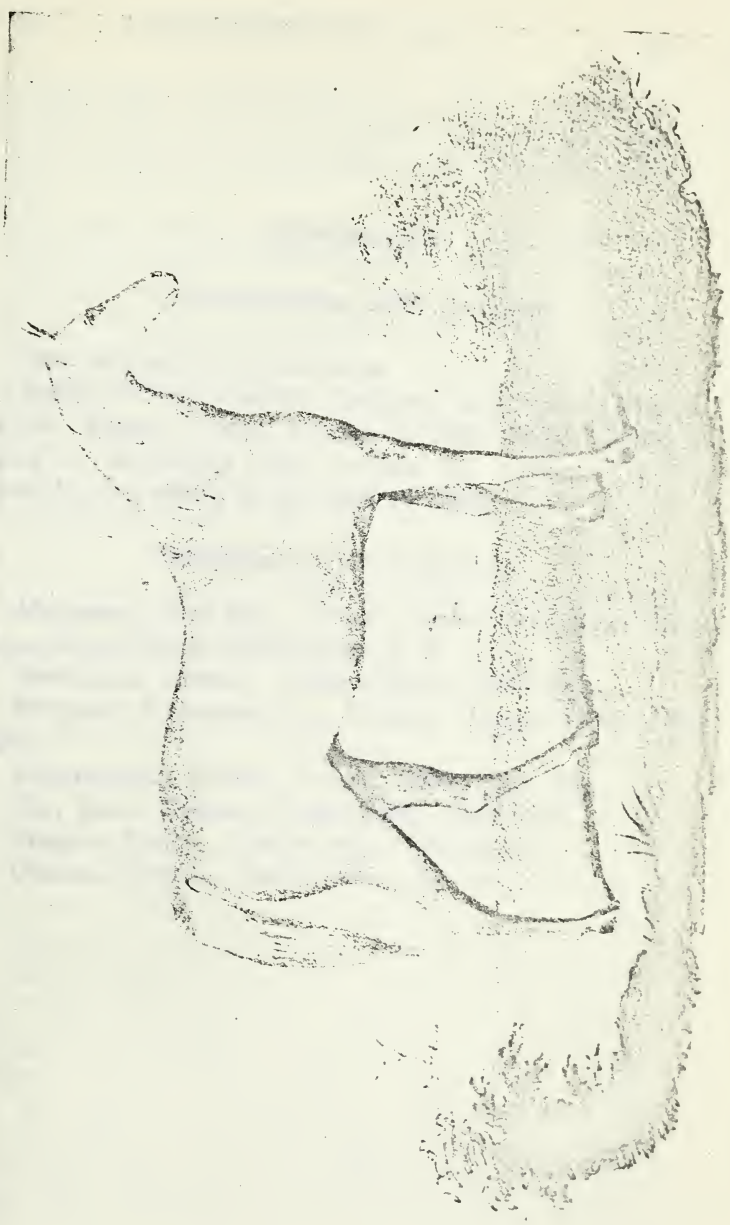






LADY SUFFOLK





**MESSENGER**

Drawn and printed by Thomas Campbell, 49 Market St., Baltimore



## MESSINGER

RUNNING HORSE, GREY IN COLOR

SIRE MAMBRINO by ENGINEER.

Foaled at NEW MARKET, ENGLAND, about 1780. IMPORTED by MR. BENDER, 1791. LANDED at NEW YORK. STOOD at FARM of TOWNSEND COCK, OYSTER BAY, QUEENS COUNTY, LONG ISLAND, where he died Jan. 28, 1808.

### DESCENDANTS OF MESSINGER

MAMBRINO, died 1831. Trotter, foaled 1806. JOHN TREDWELL, WEST HILLS, HUNTINGTON, L. I.

ABDALLAH, Trotter. Foaled 1823. Died 1854.

RYSDICKS HAMBLETONIAN, Trotter. Foaled 1849. Died 1876.

ELECTIONEER, Trotter. Foaled 1868. Died 1889.

MAY KING, Trotter. Foaled 1886. Died 1911.

BINGEN, Trotter. Foaled 1893. Died 1913.

UHLAN, Trotter. Foaled 1904. —————





sung by my father and grandfather, but from all the negro help on the manor place of my boyhood, and you may rest assured that the darkies of Long Island well knew what a good one was.

Long Island seems to have been the banner place for horse racing, as in 1665 Governor Nicolls, who was the uncle of my grandfather, six generations removed, ordered a race-course to be set aside on Hempstead Plains, called Salisbury Plains, for encouraging the bettering of breed of horses, which through great neglect had been impaired. This course was called New Market. It was near where Hyde Park is at the present time, or Isle of Trees.

In 1757 there was a track in Jamaica, Long Island, which was around Beaver Pond. There was also another racecourse on the Lisenard Meadows in Greenwich Village (old Ninth Ward) and a running track owned by the De Lancey family, 1776, fronting on the Bowery and the present First and Second\* Streets and one in Newtown, Long Island in 1758. The Centerville Track was laid out in 1825, where in 1847 the Albany Girl was tried to run one hundred miles in ten consecutive hours in harness. She actually accomplished ninety-seven and one half miles in nine and one half hours and then broke down, surely such sport shows degeneracy somewhere. Now the account says she ran in harness, maybe she may have trotted. This latter account is from "History of Long Island" by Peter Ross, published by Lewis Publishing Company, New York. Lady Suffolk was bred at Smithtown in Suffolk County, Long Island, in 1833 by Leonard W. Lawrence, being sired by Engineer 2nd, he by Messenger. Her dam was by Plato, a son of imported Messenger, who was bred by General Floyd, of Smithtown, Long Island (a relative of the writer). Lady Suffolk was sold as a young filly (two years old) to David Bryant, a resident of the same county for \$112.50, having previously been sold to Charles Little for thirty-two dollars and fifty cents, and by him for sixty-two dollars to Richard

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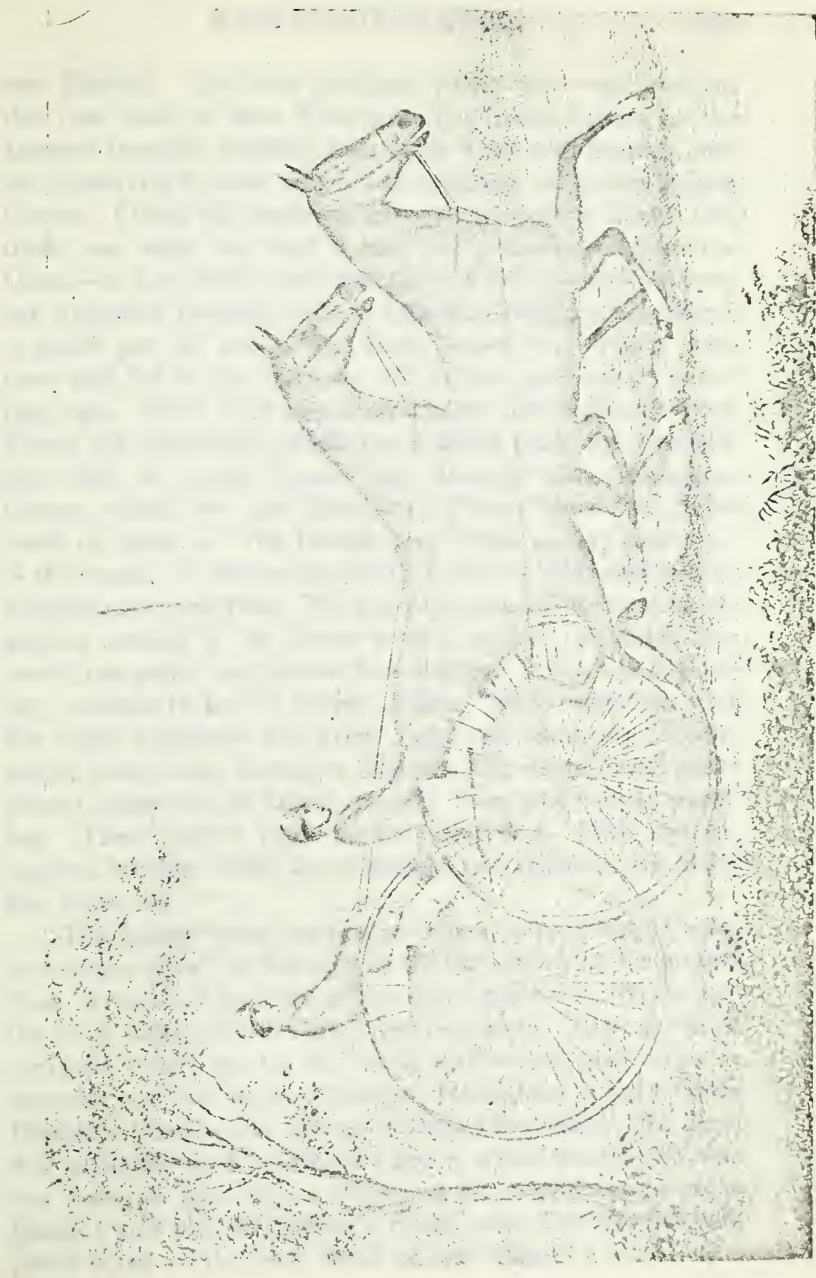
\*The stable being on old First Street (now Crystie Street) and the paddock on old Second Street (now Forsyth Street).



Blydenburg. She was fifteen hands one and one half inches in height. She was iron gray in color, but in old age was quite white. She commenced her career about 1838, continuing until 1853, during which time she met almost all of the fast ones of those days, and it was not only mile heats three-in-five, but often two, three and four-mile heats. In 1841 she trotted two mile heats under saddle, also one of three-mile heats. In 1842 she trotted two-mile heats in harness against Ripton and in 1844 under saddle against the same horse. About 1849 she trotted three-mile heats in harness against Trustee and Pelham, the fastest time being seven minutes forty-five and one half seconds. All of these races were won by Lady Suffolk. The many good ones which she met and conquered were Sam Patch, Vermont Black Hawk, Rattler, Dutchman, Apollo, Lady Victory, Henry, Ellen Jewett, Aaron Burr, Confidence, Washington, Awful, Oncida Chief, Ripton, Rifle, Beppo, Independence, Taconey, Americus, Duchess, Moscow, James K. Polk, Lady Moscow, Lady Sutton, a small brown mare; Mac, Grey Eagle, Pelham, Jack Rossiter, Trustee, Long Island, Black Hawk, Hector, Roanoke, Brown Columbus, Kentucky Chief, Pet O'Brien, Boston Girl, Honest John, Kemble Jackson, Ben Ringer, Sontag, Lady Palmer and Peerless. The last was a gray mare, which later was owned by Robert Bonner, who also owned Flatbush Maid, Palmer and Pocahontas, the great pacing mare, two minutes seventeen and one quarter seconds, beating Hero in wagon race on the Union Course in 1855. I must also mention Selim. He was owned by my father, who sold him to George Raynor. I think he was the hardest colt to break that I ever saw. He would rush right into a fence or any other obstruction, being really a dangerous horse to handle. He had great speed. In his old age he was found in the stable of a defaulting teller of a prominent New York bank, whose residence was in the vicinity of Rockaway. The large sorrel mare Gipsy was owned by the writer's grandfather, who sold her to George Burnett, of New York, for eight hundred dollars—a large sum in those times. She was the dam of Jupiter (formerly Night Hawk) and grandam of Lady Emma







RIPTON AND CONFIDENCE





and Pearsall. The two principal tracks that were used at this time close to New York were the Union Course on the Jamaica turnpike between East New York and Jamaica, and the Centerville Course, which was originally called the Eclipse Course. I think the name was changed previous to 1840. This track was about one and a half miles southwest from the Union—in fact, about three-fourths of a mile west of the present Aqueduct running track in Queens County, Long Island. A small part of one of the lanes, which was fringed with trees and led to the track, is still visible, as I saw it a few days ago. There were also several other mile tracks on Long Island, the Huntington track, the Babylon track, the Massapequa track at South Oyster Bay, and the old Washington Course, which was on Hempstead Plains, about two miles south of Mineola. The Huckleberry frolics always took place at this track. It was on the open prairie, no fence enclosing it, so admittance was free. The purses were made up by someone passing around in the crowd with a tumbler, in which they would put either one, two or four shillings, which would probably amount to ten or twelve dollars. They would trot for the whole afternoon and often away past sundown. Horses would come from Brooklyn, Babylon, Huntington and other distant places on the Island, starting from home in the morning. These trotted races all the afternoon. They had the stamina in those times, as no horse was trained to race under five years old.

The judges' stand on this track was very crude, it being two stories about six feet square, the bar occupying the ground floor. After each heat the crowd was supposed to "licker up" the drink being gin and sugar, rum or brandy. After the races everyone would go for his horse and wagon, and a merry scramble was had by those going to Hempstead to get to Steve Hewlett's Hotel on the corner of Main Street first. This hotel was adjoining old St. George's Church, which was erected over two hundred years ago. Others of the crowd would go to Jamaica and stop at Remsen's Hotel or at Cale Weeks' both places being on the main street of the village.

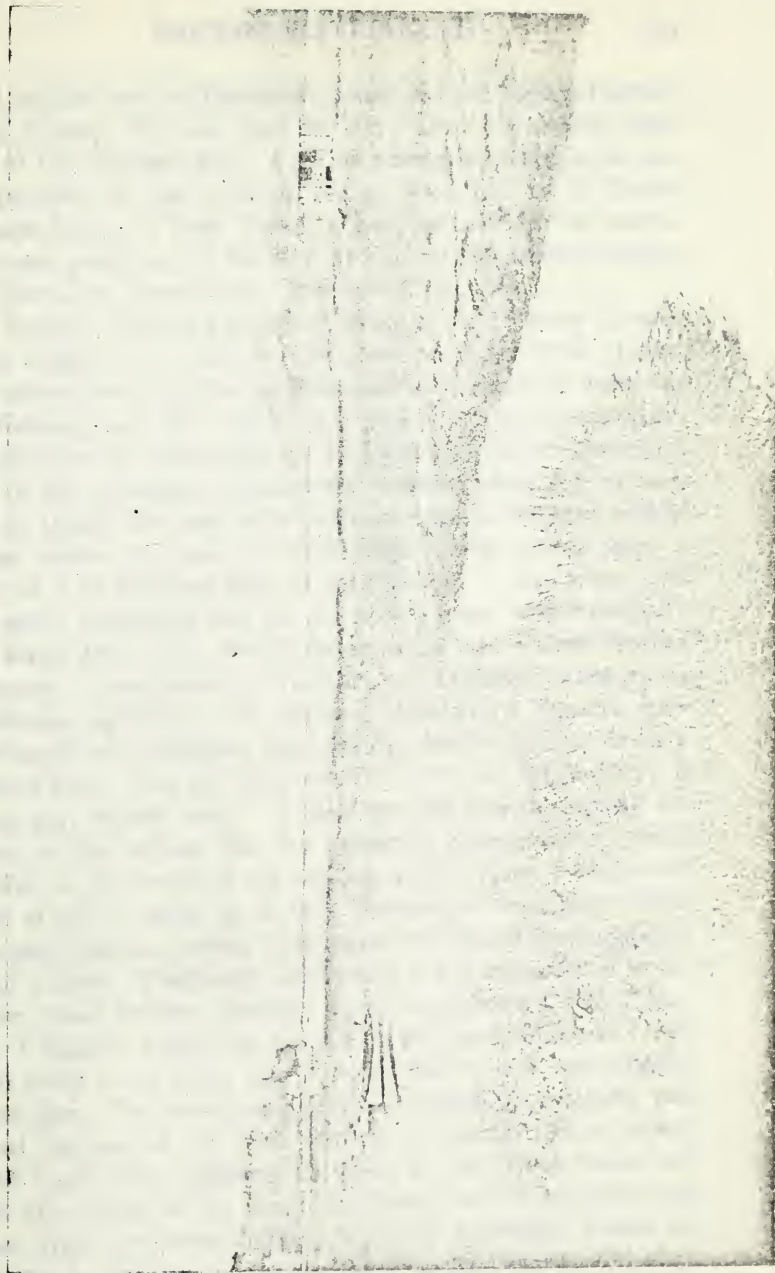


There was great speed shown on these country roads and dangerous to try to pass your competitor, as you were liable to go in the gutter. There were also several half-mile tracks. One was called the Hamilton, where ninety-third Street and Columbus Avenue cross, near where St. Agnes Church is now located, the old Aphorpe house was right in front of it on Columbus Avenue; also one on Harlem lane near the river just above Harry Bertholf's old road house at 148th Street, also the Red House on Second Avenue and 105th Street. Before bringing this part of my article to a close in connection with Lady Suffolk, I desire to refer to a grand, good horse who met her on the turf on many occasions. This was Grey Eagle. He was a gray gelding, fifteen hands high, being really a beautiful little horse. Hiram Woodruff was his trainer. It was in 1849 that he trotted against Lady Suffolk under saddle, also trotted against her in harness, he being vanquished on both occasions. The best time of the last race was two minutes, thirty-four seconds.

In November, 1850, he again met Lady Suffolk, mile heats, three-in-five, in harness, he proving the victor in three straight heats, two minutes, thirty-seven seconds being the fastest one. On July 13, 1851, he trotted a race of three-mile heats in harness against Trustee, Shavetail and Bluffer. The day was extremely hot. The first heat was won by Trustee in eight minutes, thirty-eight seconds, but the extreme temperature of this summer day was too much for Trustee, as it completely knocked him out and he died in harness. Grey Eagle came very close to meeting the same untimely end from the like cause, he being saved by blood-letting. The others went three heats and Bluffer was drawn. While referring to this horse, Grey Eagle, I cannot refrain from relating quite an amusing episode that happened to the writer in which Grey Eagle was the star performer and in which the other one of the cast appeared in the most ludicrous light which might have ended most seriously to both, in which case this little squib would never have seen this, its present publicity.

It was in the spring of 1852. Grey Eagle had been win-





COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND





tered on the farm of David W. Jones at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island. He was sent up there after his nearly death race of the previous July. I do not remember whether he was the property at that time of Hiram Woodruff or of Daniel Youngs Jones, of New York. I rode behind him on several occasions going out to the Red House in 1855, accompanying Mr. Jones, my great-uncle. But now to my story:

In 1852 I was at a boarding school at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, very close to the home of Major Wm. Jones. The school was kept by an Episcopal clergyman, he being an Englishman and who was at one period in the British navy. At this time he was rector of an Episcopal church there and one of his principal amusements, whether deserved or not, was to thrash the boys who were confided to his care with a rattan across the back of their fingers, first giving them a taste of it on the open palm of their hands. It was freely said for years afterward that all the poor victims who eventually got away from this clerical flayer, who was a most worthy successor, transplanted to America, of Dickens' character in "Nicholas Nickleby," the despised Whackford Squeers, carried hands with unsightly big knuckles for the balance of their natural lives. But he likely now R. I. P., we forgive him, it being part of my story. It was one fine day during my sojourn at this school that my respected parent was expected to dine at the home of his relative at this place. Word was sent to me to dress up in my Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes and meet him, he coming from across the Island about eighteen miles distant. Flattering myself that I was immaculate in my attire, brass buttons, buckles, large turned-down collar, etc., etc., I quickly walked up the hill to the rendezvous, as I had been away from home nearly three months and was anxious to see him. The anticipated guest not having yet arrived I was asked, in spite of my good clothes, if I would like to mount Grey Eagle, who appeared as white as the driven snow, and ride him down to the long sand beach which separates the outer from the inner harbor. Quickly assenting, I was instructed by my cousin, young David Jones (who is still alive



at this writing and who resides at Flushing, Long Island, being over eighty-five years of age), to ride Eagle in the water while I was down there, so as to wet his legs a little. At the time of day it happened to be low tide. Thinking the water of the outer bay a little rough where there was a good sound footing of sand and being a shade timid, I started him toward what little water I could see in the inner harbor, which was very quiet and very little of it, which was some two hundred feet from the sandy shore. But I kept after that water when without any warning Eagle went floundering into a mud hole and sunk down to his body and off I went head over heels into the same slimy muck. Quickly scrambling up I grabbed his bridle and after several plunges in which he fell again and I with him, I finally succeeded in getting him out, myself, also, and oh, what a sight we both presented. He was only a few short minutes before this a white horse—without a red-headed girl in sight—and I a white lad in my elegant attire. But the transformation was quick and realistic. Leading my partner up the beach to a stone wall in front of the Major's old homestead, I got on his back, clutched the reins and started for home and we got there mighty quick. From the moment I mounted, he started on a run up the hill fully half a mile. I was slipping on the muddy saddle and the reins slipping through my hands prevented me from getting any hold, so had to let him go. On arrival at his stable the younger David Jones happened to be there and witnessed our return. Well can I remember his astonished look and exclamation: "Where have you two been?" All hands were called to wash off the supposed White Eagle, while I was stripped and went through the same ablution. I will here remark that when my parent arrived I was sitting composedly drying before the kitchen stove, while my clothes, which had been washed and cleaned by my good great-aunt, were on the clothes horse also drying. I can safely say that I did not try any more of these kind of stunts after this experience. I never heard whether my great-grandfather saw from his piazza the ludicrous plight of his great-grandson. If he did likely his opinion





would have been that the horse strain of common sense was woefully lacking in his descendant.

Major William Jones is accredited with the honor of having produced a horse that trotted a mile in harness under three minutes. The true account of the feat is as follows. It was at a jockey club dinner which took place in 1818 believed to have occurred at Baltimore, Maryland, that he made the wager with a Colonel Bond for the sum of \$1,000. He told his son Daniel Youngs Jones as also his two grandsons David Jones and the late Elbert Floyd Jones, three representative men of Queens County, the full history of the event, all of whom have always been considered the best authority on trotting annals of Long Island. The horse he named to win the bet was called Boston Pony who was fifteen and one-half hands high, called a pony in those days. He had him brought from Boston on a sloop or schooner. The race was trotted on the turnpike just west of Jamaica, Long Island, and he won the bet. It was always believed and quoted for many years in periodicals of the day that the horse called Boston Blue was the hero of this feat of nearly a century past. It was indeed a very different animal. Boston Blue was a big horse of a queer gray color. He was sent over to England at that period, being called there The Slate Color American, accompanied by the gray mare, Lady Blanch, she was over fifteen hands high. Billy Baxter, the trainer, went with them. Some scandal arose at the time of rather queer methods abroad and both animals returned to the United States. From this we can draw the deduction that underhand ways in the racing world were not entirely the creation of later days. Billy Baxter subsequently worked for the author's father and trained the big sorrel mare Gypsy, the dam of Jupiter. I saw her many times when a boy return home without anyone in the yellow wheel sulkey; or if the seat was filled the occupant was oblivious to all his surroundings until the mare stopped of her own accord at the barn and her trainer was lifted out by some one of the negro help connected with the family residence, Fort Neck, South Oyster Bay, Long Island, (now Massapequa). This was in





1848. I have in my possession a relic of the early days of trotting on Long Island. It was found among my father's effects in 1900, viz:

"Rules and Regulations Adopted  
for the Union Course, Long Island  
March 25, 1848"

A comparison of these rules with those in force to-day is interesting, but it will be noted that the latter are to a considerable extent based upon this old code drafted sixty-six years ago with extensions and alterations to suit the times.

Rules and Regulations  
adopted for the  
Union Course, Long Island.

At a meeting of the supporters and admirers of trotting and pacing held at the house of Messrs. Green and Jessel in New York on the first day of March, 1848, the following rules and regulations for the government of all trotting and pacing matches to come off on the Union Course, Long Island, was unanimously agreed upon:

## ARTICLE I.

### NATURE OF RULES.

All matches or sweepstakes which shall come off over this course will be governed by these rules, unless the contrary is mutually agreed upon by the parties making such match or stake.

## ARTICLE II.

### POWER OF POSTPONEMENT.

In case of unfavorable weather or other unavoidable causes all purses, matches, or sweepstakes announced to come off to



which the proprietors contribute they shall have the power to postpone to a future day upon giving notice of the same.

### ARTICLE III.

#### QUALIFICATION OF HORSES STARTING.

Horses trained in the same stable or owned in part by the same person within three days shall not start for a purse; and horses so entered shall forfeit their entrance. A horse starting alone shall receive but one-half the purse. Horses deemed by the judges not fair trotting horses, shall be ruled off previous to or distanced at the termination of the heat.

### ARTICLE IV.

#### ENTRIES.

All entries shall be made under a seal enclosing the entrance money (ten per cent. on the purse) and addressed to the proprietor at such time and place as may have been previously designated by advertisement.

### ARTICLE V.

#### WEIGHT TO BE CARRIED.

Every trotting horse starting for match, purse or stake, shall carry one hundred and forty-five pounds, if in harness, the weight of the sulkey and harness not to be considered. Pacing horses liable to the same rule.

### ARTICLE VI.

#### DISTANCES.

A distance for mile heats, best three-in-five shall be one hundred yards; for one mile heats, eighty yards; and for every additional mile an additional eighty yards.



## ARTICLE VII.

## TIME BETWEEN HEATS.

The time between heats shall be for one mile, twenty minutes, and for every additional mile an additional five minutes.

## ARTICLE VIII.

## POWER OF JUDGES.

There shall be chosen by the proprietor of the course or stewards, three judges to preside over a race for purses, and by them an additional judge shall be appointed for the distance stand; they may also during or previous to a race appoint inspectors at any part of the course, whose reports and theirs alone, shall be received of any foul riding or driving.

## ARTICLE IX

## DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN JUDGES.

Should a difference of opinion exist between the judges in the starting stand on any question, a majority shall govern.

## ARTICLE X.

## JUDGES' DUTIES.

The judges shall order the horses saddled or harnessed five minutes previous to the time appointed for starting: any rider or driver causing undue detention after being called up by making false starts or otherwise, the judges may give the word to start without reference to the situation of the horse so offending, unless convinced such delay is unavoidable on the part of the rider or driver in which case not more than thirty minutes shall be consumed in attempting to start, and at the expiration of that time the horse or horses ready to start shall receive the word.





## ARTICLE XI.

## STARTING OF HORSES.

The pole shall be drawn for by the judges; the horse winning a heat shall for the succeeding heats be intitled to a choice of the track on coming out on the last stretch. Each horse shall retain the track first selected; any horse deviating shall be distanced.

## ARTICLE XII.

## RIDERS OR DRIVERS.

Riders and drivers shall not be permitted to start unless dressed in jockey style.

## ARTICLE XIII.

## WEIGHTS OF RIDERS AND DRIVERS.

Riders and drivers shall weigh in the presence of one or more of the judges previous to starting; and after a heat are to come up to the starting stand and not dismount until so ordered by the judges. Any rider or driver disobeying shall on weighing be precluded from the benefit of the weight of his saddle and whip, and if not full weight shall be distanced.

## ARTICLE XIV.

## PENALTY FOR FOUL RIDING OR DRIVING.

A rider or driver committing any act which the judges may deem foul riding or driving shall be distanced.

## ARTICLE XV.

## HORSES BREAKING.

Should any horse break from his trot or pace it shall be the duty of the rider or driver to pull his horse to a trot or



pace immediately, and in case of the rider or driver refusing to do so, the penalty shall be that the next best horse shall have the heat. If the rider or driver should comply with the above and he should gain by such break, twice the distance so gained shall be taken away on the coming out. A horse breaking on the score shall not lose the heat by so doing.

#### ARTICLE XVI.

##### THE WINNING HORSE.

A horse must win two heats to be entitled to the purse, unless he distance all other horses in one heat. A distanced horse in a dead heat shall not start again.

#### ARTICLE XVII.

##### RELATIVE TO HEATS.

A horse not winning one heat in three shall not start for a fourth heat unless such horse shall have made a dead heat. When a dead heat is made between two horses, that if either had won the heat the race would have been decided, they two only shall start again; in races best three-in-five, a horse shall win one heat in five to be allowed to start for the sixth heat, unless such horse shall have made a dead heat. Such horses as are prevented from starting by this rule shall be considered drawn and not distanced.

#### ARTICLE XVIII.

##### ON HEATS AND DISTANCES.

If two horses each win a heat and neither are distanced in the race, the one coming out ahead on the last heat to be considered the best. The same rule to be applied to horses neither winning a heat and neither distanced. If one horse wins a heat he is better than one that does not providing he does not get distanced in the race, then the other if not



distanced shall be the best. A horse that wins a heat and is distanced is better than one not winning a heat and being distanced in the same heat. A horse distanced in the second heat is better than one distanced in the first heat.

## ARTICLE XIX.

## HORSES DRAWN.

Horses drawn before the conclusion of a race shall be considered distanced.

## ARTICLE XX.

## OUTSIDE BETS.

In all matches made play or pay outside bets not to be considered P. P. unless so understood by the parties.

## ARTICLE XXI.

## OF P. P. MATCHES.

All moneys bet on P. P. matches by outside bettors are not considered P. P.

## ARTICLE XXII.

## BETTING. ABSENT BETTORS.

A confirmed bet cannot be let off without mutual consent. If either party be absent at the time of trotting, and the money be not staked the party present may declare the bet void in the presence of the judges, unless some party will stake the money betted for the absentee.

## ARTICLE XXIII.

## COMPROMISED MATCHES.

All bets made by outside betters on compromised matches are considered drawn.





## ARTICLE XXIV.

## BETTERS OF ODDS, ETC.

The person who bets the odds has a right to choose the horse or the field. When he has chosen his horse, the field is what starts against him; but there is no field unless one starts with him. If odds are bet without naming the horses before the trot is over it must be determined as the odds were at the time of making it. Bets made in trotting are not determined till the purse is won, if the heat is not specified at the time of betting.

## ARTICLE XXV.

## HORSES EXCLUDED FROM STARTING OR DISTANCED.

All bets made on horses precluded from starting (by rule XIX) being distanced in the race, or on such horses against each other, shall be drawn.

## ARTICLE XXVI.

## IN CASES OF DISPUTE AND IMPROPER CONDUCT.

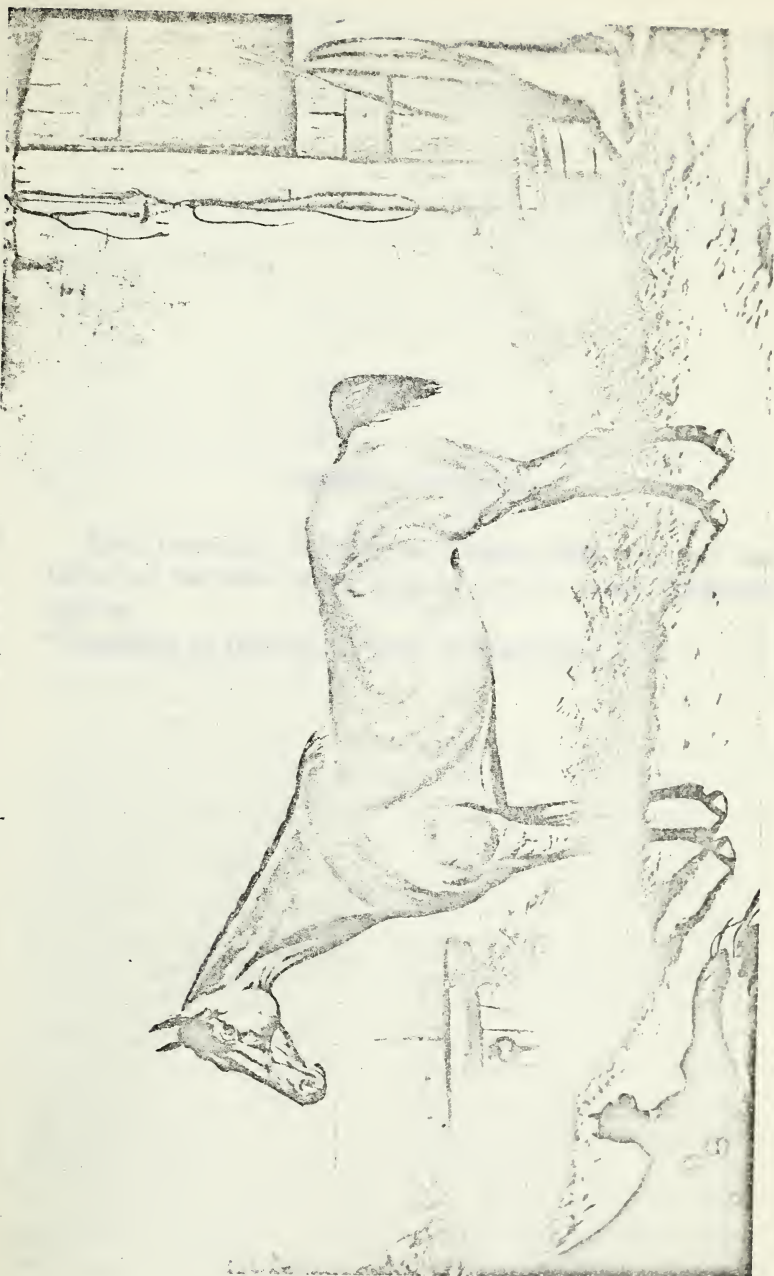
In all cases of dispute not provided for by the rules, the judges for the day will decide finally. In case of a trot or match being proved to their satisfaction to have been made or conducted improperly or dishonestly on the part of the principals, they shall have the power to declare all bets void.

## ARTICLE XXVII.

## SIZE OF WHIPS TO BE USED.

No rider or driver shall be allowed any other than a reasonable length of whip, viz: for saddle horses, two feet ten inches; sulkey, four feet eight inches; wagon, five feet ten inches.





FLORA TEMPLE, 2.194

From the Original Portrait, property of the Author of this book, it having been presented to him by Mrs. James Kirkby of Englewood, New Jersey, daughter of James D. McMann



\*FLORA TEMPLE

Died December 21, 1877, at Chestnut Hill, Pa., and was buried on the lawn of the farm of her last owner, ARISTIDES WELCH.

\*Furnished by GURNEY C. GUE, of Hempstead, L. I.

FLORA TEMPLE, 216

From the Original Portrait, presented to the Author of this book, it has long been deposited to him by Mrs. James Kirby of New Jersey, daughter of James M. Kirby





## ARTICLE XXVIII.

## IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS.

In case of accident, but five minutes shall be allowed over the time specified in rule number X, unless the judges think more time necessary.

## ARTICLE XXIX.

## JUDGES' STAND.

No person shall be allowed in the judges' stand but the judges, reporters and members at the time of trotting.

## ARTICLE XXX.

## IN CASE OF DEATH.

All engagements are void upon the decease of either party before being determined.

Very many of the lovers of the trotter who are now advancing in years, can glance backward and well remember the worthy successor at a later date of the great Lady Suffolk. I refer to that grand little bob-tailed mare Flora Temple. She was foaled about 1845 in Oneida County, near Utica, sired by One-Eyed Hunter, dam's pedigree unknown. She trotted over the Union, Centerville and Fashion tracks on Long Island. The latter course was at Newtown and had a brick wall around it, with broken glass on top. The rear of the track was on Jackson Avenue. Flora trotted against Centerville in 1852. He was a dark brown gelding about sixteen hands high. I rode behind him and also on his back in my boyhood days. She also met Young Dutchman, Lady Brooks, Black Douglass and Highland Maid, George Spicer's great mare (later owned by F. J. Nodine), Tacony, Grey Eddy, Green Mountain Maid, Mac and Jack Waters. When she trotted against these horses she was owned by George E. Perrin, later by John C. Perrin, a



Mr. Boerum and Lew Pettee, being driven by Hiram Woodruff, Warren Peabody and Darius Tallman. Flora now changed hands, having been bought by James Irving, who sold her to Mr. James D. McMann, of New York. At first they owned her conjointly, but on Irving being mixed up in the Bill Poole fracas, Mr. McMann demanded that the partnership in Flora be dissolved, so James Irving sold his one-half interest in the mare to James D. McMann. Under his ownership she met such good ones as Sontag, Lady Franklin, Frank Forrester, Miller's Damsel, Hero, Chicago Jack, Lancet and Tacony. The Fashion Course came into existence during her career, about 1856, being originally constructed for a running track. Flora also met Brown Dick, Rose of Washington, Ethan Allen and the great California mare, Princess, in 1861, she being formerly called Topsey. Flora was sold to Mr. McDonald, of Baltimore, in 1858, for \$8,000, but remained in charge of Mr. McMann. When Mr. McDonald died his wife in closing up his estate, would not dispose of Flora Temple, as she had heard that her husband had promised that at his death the great mare should be presented to Mr. McMann. The latter went on to Baltimore, saw Mrs. McDonald and thoroughly dispelled all and any grounds which existed to foster this belief. One of the most honorable horseman of those days, it was not surprising when he gave this decision in which he might greatly have profited if decided otherwise. She beat Prince, Reindeer and George M. Patchen in 1859. The latter horse belonged to Mr. Watermire. Flora was at this time fourteen years old. One of the prominent road drivers was Edward Pearsall, who resided at No. 3 Waverly Place. He was the owner of Empress, the dam of Lady Emma, who was sired by the sorrel stallion Jupiter, owned by Dr. Rich, of New York. Mr. Pearsall sold Emma to Carl Burr, who resold her to Lew Pettee. She was in Hiram Woodruff's hands. Others were Cornelius Vanderbilt, Wm. Turnbull, George Osgood, Joseph Harker, Henry Eldert, Charles Kerner, Wm. H. Vanderbilt, Anson Livingston, Capt. Jacob Vanderbilt, August Belmont, James Breslin, A. B. Darling, Charles Weeks, Leonard Jerome and his



brother Lawrence, Frank Work, M. L. Mott, Wm. Rockefeller, Wright Sandford, John Harbeck, J. W. Coster, Isaiah Rynders, George Law, C. A. Griswold, George Burnett, James Watson, Lew Pettee, Henry Genet, Joe Crocheron, Daniel Underhill, Jacob Somerindike, Robert Bonner and David Bonner, Joseph Godwin, Harry Felter, J. H. Flagler, Sheppard F. Knapp, Thomas Kilpatrick, Oliver Marshall, John A. Morrissey, pugilist and politician, at one time congressman.

Many celebrated horses came on the turf at that time and at a later date such as Robert Fillingham (afterwards George Wilkes), Contraband (afterwards General Butler), Dexter, Lady Thorn, Goldsmith Maid, Prince, American Girl, Lady Emma, Judge Fullerton, Mountain Boy, Vanderbilt, Toronto Chief, Tom Wonder, Pocahontas, Plough Boy, Woodpecker, Thomas Jefferson, Bruno, Brunette and Great Eastern, also George M. Patchen (stallion). He was foaled at Freehold, New Jersey, was brown in color, being sixteen hands high, sired by Cassius M. Clay, dam by brother of Trustee.

One of the hardest races that Flora was ever engaged in was against the chestnut gelding Medoc, afterwards called John Morgan. His sire was Pilot, Jr., son of old Pilot Pacer, dam was by the race horse Medoc, a son of American Eclipse. Morgan had a white foot and a blaze in the face, big horse, sixteen hands high, strongly built in every particular. Jim Turner was one of his owners and drove him in his races against Flora. There was really up to 1863 nothing that could be found that she had not vanquished, so they pitted her against Ethan Allen and running mate on the Union Course. They succeeded in beating her in two minutes, twenty-two seconds. Horace Jones drove them. They met again on the Fashion Track. The team won the first heat in two minutes twenty-one and three quarter seconds, and were distanced in the second. In the next race Horace Jones drove them and they beat the mare. Mr. McDonald owned her at this time. It was about 1864 when the great gelding Dexter came into prominence. He was bred in Orange County, sired by Hambletonian, dam by American Star. He was foaled in 1858.





Well do I remember him—his white legs and blaze in his face. George Alley purchased him and sent him up to John Mingoe's at Flushing, Long Island. He was always driven by Hiram Woodruff as long as Mr. Alley owned him. He trotted against Stonewall Jackson, Lady Collins and General Grant on the Fashion Course and won the race in two minutes thirty-four and one quarter seconds, best time. Dexter also met Lady Shannon, Shark, General Butler, George Wilkes, Rockingham and Commodore Vanderbilt. The only trotter that ever took his measure was the big mare Lady Thorne, who was owned by Mr. James D. McMann. This fast one was from Kentucky, sired by Mambrino Chief. She had beaten Stonewall Jackson and was matched against Dexter to trot on the Union Course. She won the race, best time two minutes, twenty-four seconds. They met three times after this, Dexter winning each time. It was the general opinion among horse-men that if she had not met with an accident while being loaded in a freight car, that she would have been "The Lady Suffolk" of her day. At the time Hiram had Dexter in his stable he also had Lady Emma, whom my father raised. I saw her in a wagon race on the Fashion track, in 1865, beat General Butler, John Morgan and the Hartford horse Prince, and later on the Union Course saw her beat George Wilkes in harness. This mare was a light chestnut, long tail, and carried her head high. Without exception, I have always considered that she was the most perfect piece of horse flesh in every particular that I have ever seen in my life, and I have seen very many.

There were several stage lines on Long Island during these days, one of them being a three-horse stage that belonged to Judson Cornelius and was driven by Daniel Chichester from Amityville (which was originally called Huntington South) to Fulton Ferry. It would start about 7 o'clock in the morning, making the first stop at Hewlett's Hotel, Main Street, Hempstead, where the horses were watered; thence on to Jamaica, stopping at Remsen's Hotel, then taking the old turnpike road past the Union Course, through East New York and



Bedford, down through Fulton Street to the American House at the ferry. This hotel was kept by Com. Jones, later by Martin Wood. It would reach this destination about 6:30 P. M. The fare was fifty cents; on the railroad it would cost \$1.00. Many of the natives of the vicinity of Freeport (then called Raynortown) and Greenwich Point (then called Rum Point), near Hempstead, availed of these stages in going to "York," as New York was called. The stage would return the next day over the same route. It was a great treat to sit up on the front seat with the driver. Another line belonged to the Curtis family, who kept a hotel corner of Main and Fulton Streets, Hempstead. It also ran to Brooklyn.

Montgomery Queen was one of the pioneers of stages in Brooklyn, and his four-horse stage sleighs were the wonders of the day. Old Brooklynites will readily recall them, as also Phil Grogan, who kept an oyster house in Fulton Street; Dominick Colgan, one in Clinton Street, and the great chop and ale house of John C. Force, 16 High Street, near Fulton, where he had over \$100,000 worth of paintings on his walls. John Russell kept an ale house on the corner of Johnson and Washington Streets; Tom Blakely (The Bank) in Fulton Street; Hartshorn's was at Adams and Willoughby Streets; Zeke Baldwin, the Franklin House at Fulton Ferry; Mike Henry, champion ball player, also in Fulton Street, near Front, kept a hostelry. John Ferguson kept a billiard room on Washington Street near Johnson, opposite old St. John's Church, later the site of the ill-fated Brooklyn Theatre. Ferguson's was the headquarters of the Excelsior baseball club, whose great rivals were the Atlantics, of Brooklyn; Mutuals, Knickerbockers and Gothams, of New York. James Creighton was the great pitcher of the Excelsiors, and from that day to this we have never seen his equal. His monument is in Greenwood. Joe Leggett was the catcher; Pearsall, first base; Asa Brainard, second base; Flanly, shortstop; Cummings, in the field.

Mr. Chadwick, of the Stars, always reported the games for the press. This grand old veteran died on the 21st of April,



1908, the funeral taking place on the 24th, which was largely attended by old Brooklynites and baseball lovers. The Stars of Brooklyn was the nursery out of which graduated the great players of the Excelsior Club. Dickey Pierce and the O'Briens were members of the Atlantic Club. The Elysian Fields of Hoboken was the grounds of the New York Clubs, Gothams, Knickerbockers and others and when a Brooklyn club played them there, it was Rough-house, and the ferryboat coming home to New York was a dangerous spot as fight predominated.





## CHAPTER NINE

**A**T this part of my narrative I desire to retrograde a few years back to the two, three and four-mile heats, which were trotted in Lady Suffolk's day. A horse's endurance quality was viewed as a valuable adjunct, and it was even carried to wagers being made that teams could not trot certain distances in a given time. The one I call to mind was the remarkable performance of a pair of stage horses in 1841, this being the year that the author of this article first made his appearance on this mundane sphere, the first day of spring, 21st of March.

The account was given by Wm. Jones Weeks (cousin of the writer), who saw the register of the house at Montauk Point, Long Island, in 1847. The account on the register, which was kept by P. T. Gould, who was keeper of the light-house at that time, was: Match against time for \$600, between Mr. Isaac Willets from Hempstead, and Mr. Gilbert B. Miller of Brooklyn.

Mr. Willets bet Mr. Miller that he could drive a pair of mares, one belonging to John Curtis and the other to Joseph Curtis, from Brooklyn to Montauk Point in twenty-four hours to a wagon weighing 300 pounds, being 140 miles by the post road, in the month of March, 1841.

Mr. Willets started from Brooklyn on the fifth day at six in the evening and arrived at the Point on the sixth at 5:02 P. M., performing the distance in twenty-three hours and two minutes with ease. The last two hours in a snowstorm, wind east.

ISAAC WILLETS, of Hempstead,  
GILBERT B. MILLER, of Brooklyn,  
PLATT WILLETS, of Hempstead,  
WILLIAM CURTIS, of Hempstead,  
E. M. SNEDICOR, of Jamaica,  
SAMUEL DENTON, of Jamaica,  
SAMUEL WILLETS, of Bellport,  
CHARLES E. SNEDICOR, of Southampton,  
ROBERT ISAACS PILOT, of Easthampton.



(The above names in the register are original signatures).

The following item is from the Long Island Star, published in Brooklyn, under date of Wednesday, March 10, 1841:

#### THE TROTTING MATCH

The match of \$300 a side to drive a pair of horses before a light wagon to Montauk Point, 140 miles, in twenty-four hours, was accomplished with ease by Mr. Willets, and he had one hour and six minutes to spare. The snowstorm, which commenced here on Saturday morning, was no impediment and not felt until 3 o'clock in the afternoon at Easthampton, where the rain fell moderately, as the wind was about northeast. This fact concerning the course and progress of storms may be of some importance as illustrative of Mr. Espy's theory.

The foregoing copy of the entry in the register kept at Montauk Point in 1841, is the only authentic and reliable account of the match, although in Volume Fifteen of the "American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine" issued in August, 1844, the following account was given of this performance:

A pair of stage horses trotted from Brooklyn to Montauk Point, the extreme length of the Island, about one hundred and twenty-six miles in twenty-four hours. The match was made by Mr. Willis, the stage proprietor at Hempstead, who drove a pair of old mares that had been driven for years as leaders in his stage team.

A good joke is told of this match, but we do not vouch for its authenticity. A short time before the match was to come off, Mr. Willets selected his horses, and to make assurance doubly sure as he thought, actually drove them the entire distance in a trial to ascertain whether it would be safe to lay out his money on the match. If any one has heard of a longer private trial, we should like to hear of it. The match was driven during a northeast snowstorm dead ahead, but the last fifty miles Willets partly avoided this by engaging a large Rockaway covered wagon to go before him out of which the



bottom was mostly taken, so that he could drive his mares quite up to the axletree and almost under cover. We think we see a man "getting ahead" of a Long Island Yankee—we do.

In addition to the foregoing members of the Excelsiors as constituting part of their great "Nine," the following filled the other positions, Harry Brainard, third base, Russell and Manley in the field. The feeling between the Atlantics and Excelsiors, the two home clubs was really more bitter than existed between them and their New York rivals, including the Empires as also the Athletics of Philadelphia. James Creighton's style of pitching the ball I desire to comment on as he pitched it instead of throwing it (the present method). His delivery of same was like a ball out of a gun. It was freely told at the time that in his spare moments his practice was against a barn door, and in doing so, got in all the curves to bother the man at the bat. He died from an injury received in this sport, so it was reported at the time. A marble ball and bat constitute part of his monument.

Dan Dean and his brother Tom kept a billiard room in Montague Hall, Court Street, corner of Montague, and Lambert Suydam one in the rear of the Academy of Music on Montague Street. These places were the headquarters for the meeting of baseball lovers, as also the volunteer firemen.

General Thomas Dakin, of the Thirteenth Regiment, was a member of the Pastimes or Eckfords, and if I remember right, our much respected U. S. Commissioner, Hon. John Shields, was an enthusiastic baseball player as a young man, being the left-handed pitcher of the Putnams, up on the hill.

The Park Theatre was on Fulton Street opposite the City Hall—the first theatre to have a stock company in Brooklyn. It was erected by Gabriel Harrison. He was an actor and took part there in all its productions. Previous to the building of this theatre, Brooklyn residents were forced to go to New York for entertainment of this kind, and on their way home by the Fifth Avenue Omnibus Line to Fulton Ferry, they would invariably stop in to Dorlan & Schafer's Oyster saloon in Fulton Market for refreshments, where you





could get the very best fish and oysters in New York. Under Harrison's management, this theatre was not a success, eventually merging into the hands of Frederic B. Conway, who was its manager for many years, with his wife. Her name was Sarah Crocker. She was a sister of Mrs. Bowers, a well-known actress, and the mother of Minnie Conway, who married Levy, the great cornetist. Fred Conway was an Englishman and was very popular at the old Broadway Theatre before he went to Brooklyn. Hooley's minstrels were on the corner of Court and Remsen Streets. They met with great success for many years. Archie Hughes, one of the end men, was a whole show himself. You would never forget him. Hooley played the violin in black face in the circle on the stage and then in the orchestra for the after acts. The Dime Savings Bank subsequently covered the site of this old home of negro minstrelsy. Hooley went to Chicago and made a great success there in the theatrical business, being the founder of Hooley's Theatre on Randolph Street, opposite the Court House in that city. His treasurer, who helped him to succeed, was Bliss Whitaker, son of an undertaker from Hempstead, Long Island. The Academy of Music was the largest theatre in Brooklyn. It was erected on Montague Street, between Court and Clinton, in about 1860-61. The sanitary fair was held in this building during the war. I must also refer to an episode in which the writer took a hand, which happened during the late seventies.

A celebrated European songstress was about to make a tour of the United States in grand opera under the management of a prominent theatrical manager of New York, Henry E. Abbey, who paid her a fabulous price for each performance, \$4,000.

The opening night was to be in Brooklyn as a start-off, it being held in the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Great preparations were made to make it a success in every way. The lobby of the house was filled with flowers, a band was on the sidewalk playing as the audience assembled and every seat in the house was sold, the top gallery bringing \$2.00 each. The



opera went off with great eclat and after same the closing performance took place. It was fully 11:30 o'clock when the audience emerged from the opera, delighted with the evening's performance. On reaching the sidewalk a large band was playing on the side opposite the Academy. Every one seemed to loiter to see what it all meant and what was to come after. A carriage, with a grand pair of bay horses attached, stood at the stage entrance of the building waiting for the great artist to take her, with her husband, back to New York to her hotel. As she emerged, attended by several New York friends, who put her in the carriage with her husband, a transformation scene at once took place. The horses, who appeared attached to the vehicle were in, say five seconds, completely detached and a rope was run out some fifty feet, which had been fastened to the whiffletree. At the same moment a squad of about thirty young men, in full dress suits, who had been to the opera, at a given signal, manned the rope and amid huzzas of the multitude pulled the carriage, with its precious occupants, down Montague Street to the private entrance of the Pierpont House on Remsen and Henry Streets, where a grand supper was given to the prima donna and the press. The next morning all the newspapers gave elaborate accounts of the opera and the after event, proclaiming that the populace of Brooklyn went wild, not being able to restrain their enthusiasm, had pulled the horses from the carriage and dragged it themselves to its destination. The real facts were that the matter was all arranged some weeks ahead, and the head carman of a prominent piano manufacturing house engineered the whole part as referring to the horses, while the young men who did the pulling act were formerly members of the old volunteer fire department of Brooklyn, assisted by members of a militia regiment and the Brooklyn Club. At this point I desire to give some reasons which were innumerable which led to the passing by the legislature at Albany of a bill for the paid fire department in New York and Brooklyn, thereby abolishing the volunteer system, and although it looked to an outsider that it was done in the interest of politicians to





make a large number of positions for their benefit, the volunteers were largely responsible for the causes in the main which started the agitation culminating in their overthrow. Ruffianism was rampant to a large degree and although it was not a legal member who was the aggressor, they got the blame all the same, the real culprit being what was termed a runner or hanger on. Most every company had a few of these individuals always looking for a scrimmage. Certainly great rivalry existed which apparatus should get to the fire first, especially companies who layed close to each other, and when started, it was then a rush for a hydrant and a controversy would likely ensue, who got there first and who should have it. On their way to obstruct their rival to try to pass, they would swing right into an opponent's machine and drive it against the curb, anyway to carry their point and get ahead. Then when at a fire more water was thrown on than was needed and a water fight would ensue in many cases, one party on one side of a building having the pipe on a line of hose, and another on the opposite side. Instead of putting the water on the fire they would play it upon each other and try to drown them out. So bitter was the feeling that was engendered, that even on their way home to their headquarters they could not refrain from a row. The last one I saw by the New York Department was on Broadway close to John Street, just as the old volunteer department was going out of existence. Only in one case did the writer suffer from this intense rivalry. Alongside of his company while passing No. 5 engine on Myrtle Avenue opposite Fort Green in 1866, a hoodlum ran out from the sidewalk and struck the author of this in the face. The fire cap falling off by force of the blow, gave him no chance to protect himself by use of his trumpet, as he was trying to recover his cap. By this time the assailant vanished. The members of No. 5 engine saw the dastardly act, and on arrival at the fire two or three of their representative members came and offered a most abject apology for the act of a party not a member of their organization. Many acts of bravery I can well remember during my experience of seven or eight





years as a volunteer of the Brooklyn Fire Department as a member of Atlantic Hose Company No. 1, too numerous to mention. After forty-six years past they come back in a most vivid manner.

We will now resume getting back to the horses again. Many of the regular track drivers, such as Darius Tallman, Sam McLaughlin, Horace Jones, Dan Mace, Ben Mace, Dun Walton, Eph Simmons, George Spicer, Doty, Jake Somerindyke, and Charley Green, made their homes in New York, while Hiram Woodruff, Sim Hoagland, James Whelply, William Whelan, F. J. Nodine, Dan Pfifer, Isaac Woodruff made their homes either in Brooklyn or in Queens County; and among the Brooklyn road drivers was James Weaver, whose son, young James, married a daughter of Mayor Kalbfleisch. Mr. Weaver, Sr., owned the chestnut stallion, Honest Dutchman. He made a match with Wm. M. Parks, who resided on Montague Street, near Henry, to trot a race over Prospect Park track against his black four-year-old, Prospero, by Messenger Duroc, for \$5,000 a side. Dan Pfifer drove Honest Dutchman, Charles G. Green drove Prospero. Dutchman was shut out the first heat, time about two minutes forty seconds. This race took place eight or ten years after this celebrated track came into existence, which was later than those before enumerated. It was at Gravesend, and is now called the Gravesend track, being used for running races. I think it was projected about 1863. The foregoing race was in 1873. Mr. Parks also owned Red Jacket, a fast roan horse. It was about the same time that the great match race between the chestnut gelding, Judge Fullerton, owned by William Humphrey, and the big bay mare, American Girl, owned by William Lovell, both of New York took place on this track, being won by the mare. A large lot of money changed hands on the result of this race. The Fullerton adherents went home to New York with very empty pockets.

The Deerfoot half-mile track was nearer Brooklyn. It was subsequently bought by Mr. John H. Shults. Among other prominent drivers on the road was Benjamin Prince, who



owned Lady Anne and Democrat. Shiptimber was also owned in Brooklyn, as also Petroleum, who was a pacer and could pace a half-mile in fifty-nine seconds. I can also call to mind William Hunter, George Hunt, James Brundage, Wm. Van Anden, John Cornell, Fred Dietz, Charles Moser, Thomas Jackson, Doctor Talmage, Felix Campbell, Samuel Jackson, Evert Snedikor, Lambert Suydam, Whitson Oakley, Arthur Benson, George Floyd-Jones, who owned several good ones, such as Lady Blanche, Scar-Faced Charley, Boston Boy and many others, also A. G. Gwathmey, who is the owner of the fast gelding, Tiverton, two minutes four and one-half seconds, of the present day. Before bidding adieu to the Brooklyn contingent reference must be made to Uncle Dan Willets. He was truly one of the old guard of road drivers, and owned many a crackerjack. He resided in Columbia Street, on the Heights. One of the best that he ever owned was the suckling filly Tempest, by Hambletonian, dam Coquette, by Jupiter. She was sold to him by my father, the late Elbert Floyd-Jones, who raised her, for the sum of \$1,000. Her name was afterwards changed to Nettie Plummer, the dam of Harry Plummer. She ended her days on the farm of that old horseman, Charles Kerner, at Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The fast gelding, Little Dick, record about two minutes nine and one-half seconds, who is now owned in New Jersey, in his declining years, traces his pedigree back to this well-bred mare.

I append the contents of a paper, which I found among the effects of the raiser and first owner of Tempest, which truly speaks for itself, showing that Little Dick and every other one of these times, that can trace back to her and have such a pedigree, are surely born in the purple:

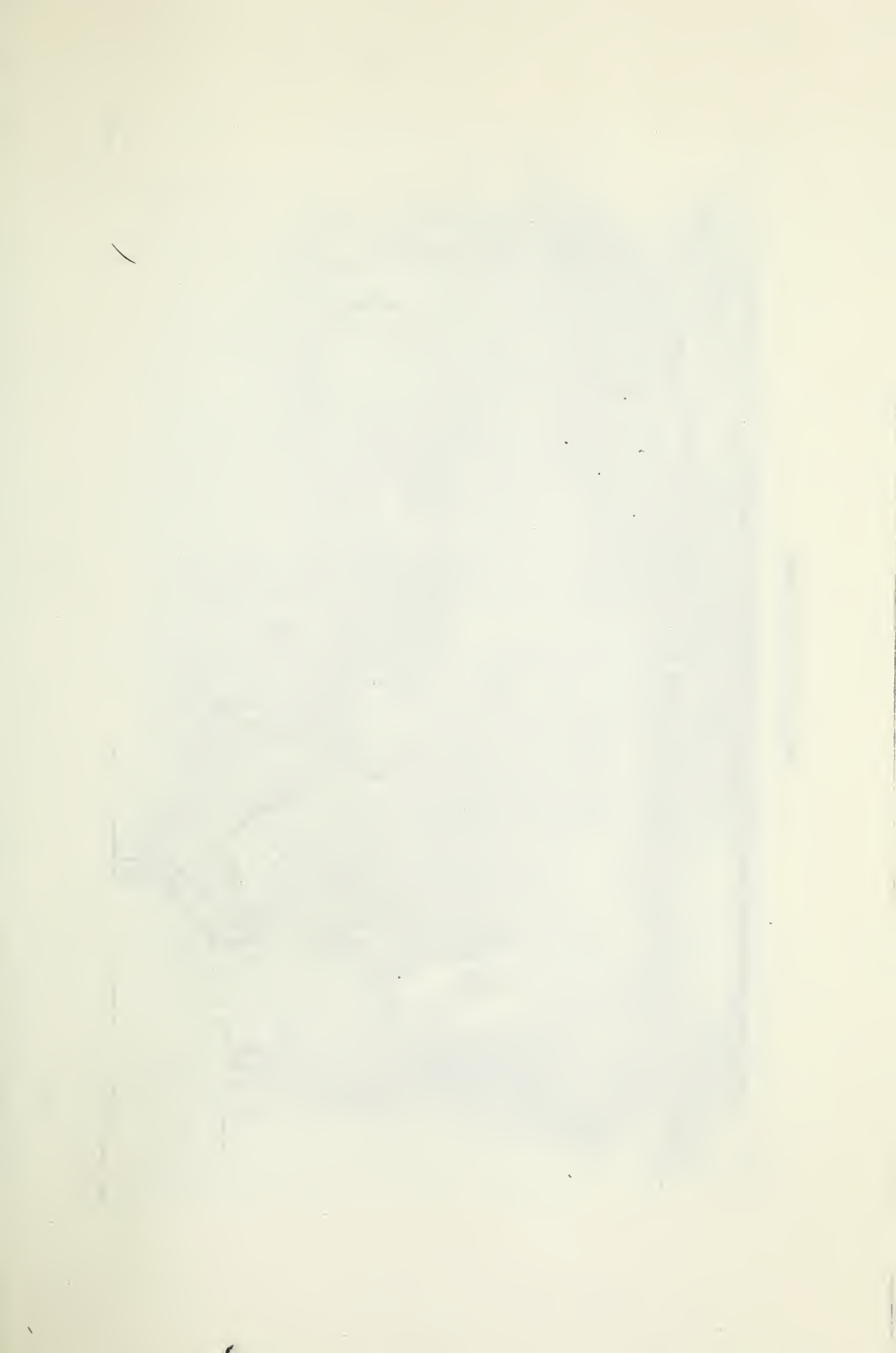
SOUTH OYSTER BAY, May 17, 1888.

SEAFORD P. O., LONG ISLAND.

"To all who may be concerned: I make the following statement to wit:

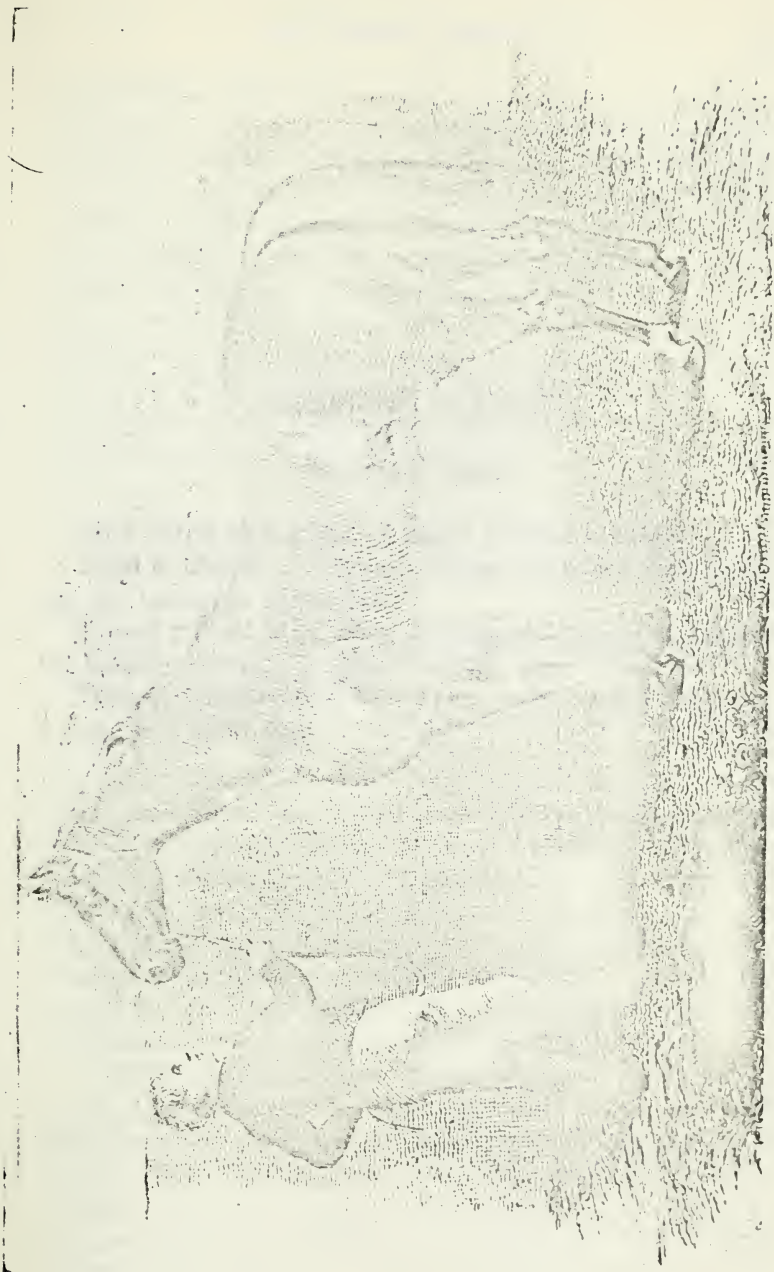
"In the summer of 1838, my father purchased a chestnut mare from the farmer of Samuel Gardiner, of Shelter Island.











AMERICAN ECLIPSE



## AMERICAN ECLIPSE

### RUNNING HORSE

Dark sorrel with a star 15 hands 3 inches in height.

Sired by DUROC, a VIRGINIA HORSE; DAM MILLER'S DAMSEL, by IMPORTED MESSENGER.

Foaled 25th of MAY, 1814, on farm of NATHANIEL COLES; his Breeder DOSORIS, QUEENS COUNTY, Long Island, N. Y.

DIED at SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY, on the farm of WILSON YATES, July 11th, 1847.



Long Island. The man stated to my father (as my father told me) that the mare was then five years old and was raised on the farm of Mr. Gardiner and that Mr. Gardiner purchased the dam of the mare from Mr. Stevens, of Hoboken (I do not recollect which it was John or Robert Stevens), and that Mr. Gardiner told him that Mr. Stevens told him that she was in foal by Old Henry. I named the mare Suffolk Maid, as there was a mare called Lady Suffolk, and also one called Maid of Suffolk. In proof of the assertion of the farmer, several years after, and when I then owned Suffolk Maid, I chanced to be snowbound on the Long Island Railroad for some days and came in contact with Mr. Samuel Gardiner. I told him that I was anxious to learn from him, personally, the pedigree of the mare my father purchased from his farmer. He then corroborated all that the farmer had told my father, and added that he did not recollect the breeding of the dam, but that she was well-bred. My conversation with Mr. Gardiner satisfied me and ought to satisfy any fair-minded man, that the sire of Suffolk Maid was Old Henry.

"In conclusion, I bred Suffolk Maid to Jupiter and raised a mare called Coquette, and Coquette I bred to old Hambletonian, and from her a filly which I called Tempest, and sold to Daniel Willets, and which I am told was afterwards called Nettie Plummer. Although some of the above is from memory, yet I herewith make my affidavit, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statement made above is correct, and that there is not the least doubt but that Suffolk Maid was sired by Old Henry, the competitor of Eclipse." (The author remembers well both Suffolk Maid and Coquette; rode behind them many times in a wagon and also under saddle).

Sir Henry was the horse that ran the great race on May 27, 1823, against Eclipse, the latter being the victor. It was the North against the South and some \$200,000 was wagered on this contest. It took place on the old Union Course, Long Island. Sir Henry represented the South. He was bred by Lernuel Long, near Halifax, in the State of North Carolina, foaled on the 17th day of June, 1819. He was sired by Sir





Archy (son of imported Chestnut Diomed) his dam by Diomed, grandam by Belle Air, g. g. dam by Pilgrim, g. g. g. dam by Valiant, g. g. g. g. dam by Janus, g. g. g. g. g. by Jolly Roger, which four last named were imported horses and are found in the English stud books. The match was made by William R. Johnson, of Baltimore, with John C. Stevens, of Hoboken, New Jersey.

Before closing up references to the doings of celebrated horses (trotters), I would like to refer to the great advance recorded in their speed from that of the Boston Pony in 1818 to that of the present period. Certainly the improvement in breeding has had the largest part to do with it, but other causes have materially helped in a large degree, such as light shoeing, light harness, boots of all kinds with toe weights, and last but not by anyway least, is the bicycle sulkey weighing twenty-nine pounds. I am not willing to concede that the drivers of to-day are any more proficient than those of sixty years ago, such as Hiram Woodruff, F. J. Nodine, William Whelan, George Spicer, Mr. McMann, Dan Pffifer, Horace Jones, Sam McLaughlin, and later Dan Mace, Budd Doble, John Splan, Charley Green, John Murphy and others. We really cannot date the accelerated speed in horses from the year 1818, in which year the feat was performed on the turn-pike at Jamaica, Long Island, but from 1845, Lady Suffolk's day, to 1912, sixty-seven years.

Time made on trotting tracks in harness 2:29½ to 1:58  
—Difference 31½ seconds.

Lady Suffolk	.....Oct. 13, 1845.....	2:29½
Flora Temple	.....Oct. 15, 1859.....	2:19¾
Dexter	.....Aug. 14, 1867.....	2:17¼
Goldsmith Maid	.....Sept. 2, 1874.....	2:14
Maud S.	.....July 30, 1885.....	2:08¾
Sunol	.....Oct. 20, 1891.....	2:08¼
Nancy Hanks	.....Sept. 28, 1892.....	2:04
Alix	.....Sept. 19, 1894.....	2:03¾
The Abbott	.....Sept. 25, 1900.....	2:03¼
Cresceus	.....Aug. 2, 1901.....	2:02¼



Major Del Mar.....	Sept. 25, 1903.....	2
Lou Dillon .....	Oct. 24, 1903.....	1:58½
Uhlán .....	Oct. 8, 1912.....	1:58
Uhlán .....	Oct. 6, 1913 One quarter	27

The author of this work has had the honor of officiating as a judge and timer of a very large number of trotting races, having officially timed several thousand heats, the most famous ones being:

Lou Dillon, Aug. 17, 1903, against time. Brighton Beach, first quarter 28¾; mile 2:03¾.

Dan, Patch, pacer, Aug. 19, 1903, against time. Brighton Beach 1:59.

Prince Alert, pacer, Sept. 23, 1903, against time. Empire Track, with wind shield 1:57.

"Swift," trotter, Sept. 1903, in race. Empire Track 2:07.

Major Del Mar. trotter, Sept. 25, 1903, against time. Empire Track with wind shield 2.

"King Chimes" and "Governor Holt" against time. Empire Track, Aug. 6, 1905, time 2:13¾, to wagon driven by amateur W. C. Floyd Jones.

King Direct, pacer, in a race 1906 driven by amateur James Butler, Empire Track, world's wagon record 2:04¾.

King Direct, pacer, against time. Driven by amateur James Butler, Empire Track, wagon record 1906 2:04¾.

Bolivar, pacer, 1907, against time. One half mile track White Plains, New York, track record 2:08.

Uhlán, trotter, against time. One half mile track Goshen, August, 1911, world's record, timed by writer unofficial 2:02¾.

Colorado E., Trotter—in race—Empire Track—three year olds, Aug. 23, 1910, 2:07¼.

In addition to the race tracks of old times, before mentioned, I find in "Champlain," Rev. Edmund Banks Smith's records, after years of research by him that a race track existed on Governors Island in 1784, Governor George Clinton having leased same to a Dr. Price. Races were run there in 1784-1785.



## EXTREME SPEED FOR TEAM RACING.

Lady Palmer and Flatbush Maid, May 10, 1862. Time 2:26. Driven by amateur Robert Bonner.

Bruno and Brunette, Sept. 11, 1867. Time 2:25¼. Driven by a professional.

Small Hopes and Lady Mac, Sept. 11, 1877. Time 2:23. Driven by amateur Wm. H. Vanderbilt.

Mill Boy and Jay Gould, Sept. 23, 1881. Time 2:22. Driven by amateur John Shepard.

Edward and Dick Swiveller, July 13, 1882. Time 2:16¾. Driven by a professional.

Maud S. and Aldine, June 14, 1883. Time 2:15½. Driven by amateur Wm. H. Vanderbilt.

Belle Hamlin and Globe, July 4, 1892. Time 2:12. Driven by a professional.

The Monk and Equity, Oct. 21, 1904. Time 2:07¾. Driven by amateur C. K. G. Billings.

King Chimes and Governor Holt, Aug. 6, 1905. Time 2:13¾. Driven by amateur W. C. Floyd-Jones.

Uhlan and Lewis Forrest, Oct. 15, 1912. Time 2:03¼. Driven by a professional.

## EXTREME SPEED FOR HALF MILE TRACK.

Uhlan at Goshen, New York, August, 1911. Time 2:02¾. Driven by a professional. World's record.

## EXTREME SPEED FOR TWO YEAR OLD COLT.

Peter Volo, trotter, by Peter the Great in race Oct. 6, 1913, 2:04½.

Lady Suffolk was twelve years old when she trotted in 2:29½.

At the age of nine to twelve it was believed that the greatest speed could be shown by a trotter.





## CHAPTER TEN

**R**ETURNING again to Broadway, which we deserted to follow the trotters, finds us at the corner of Houston Street. The Revere House was on the southeast corner and was kept by Charles Coe. Among his string of trotters was the black mare Emma C., who trotted on old Fleetwood in its declining days. She was sired by Timothy Jackson's Superb, being a full sister to the black mare with a blaze face called Daisy and owned by John Hendrickson, of Jamaica, Long Island, and later by W. Chauncey Floyd-Jones, who in 1907 campaigned the great mare Margaret O., 2.05 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Daisy was on the turf at about the same period as Emma C., and trotted on the same track, and many good races in competition with the bay mare Maud, owned by Thomas Disbrow, of Jamaica, were had. The latter mare generally had a little the best of the argument.

Reddy the Blacksmith had a saloon on Broadway just above Houston Street, east side, which catered to the under world and the Allen Brothers Mart and "The" ran the St. Bernard Hotel, corner Mercer and Prince Streets of the same description. Tony Pastor who started on the Bowery as the "Clown" graduated in Broadway, west side near Houston Street, subsequently Fourteenth Street Tammany Hall "variety kind."

Harry Hill's public house and dance hall was on the corner of Houston and Crosby Streets. His country place was on the shell road facing Flushing Bay. This sporting character was fond of horses and kept quite a number of good ones in his barns. Houston Street, just east of Broadway, was largely filled with English ale and chop houses, such as Clifton's, House of Lords, House of Commons and others. St. Thomas' Church was on the northwest corner of this street, being next door to Henry Maillard's celebrated chocolate ice cream and candy place. This church burned down in the early fifties,



was rebuilt and subsequently removed to Fifth Avenue and Fifty-third Street. Fire seems to have followed it even there, as it was totally destroyed again in 1906. Florence's eating house and saloon was in the basement of the southwest corner. This was considered a first-class place to feed the inner man. It was also the headquarters of the second or third rate prize fighters, such as Billy Mulligan and Pat Mathews. If cornered, men of this type would result to any unfair means to carry their point. It was also the rendezvous of Joe Coburn. He got into an argument with Mathews in about 1860, and although he was the champion heavy weight, Pat had the best of him. Mulligan was quite a dude. He and Pat met in Bleecker Street and had a bad scrap. Mathews was generally liked. Mulligan was shot to death from across the street by the California Vigilance Committee in San Francisco.

John Camel Heenan, the Benecia boy a native American and John Morrissey, an Irishman, were the noted pugilists of 1860. Heenan had whipped Tom Sayres in England, although the fight was called a draw, so he was considered a top notcher at that kind of business. Heenan and Morrissey gave a sparring exhibition together at Hoymes Theatre on the Bowery. Heenan was considered a handsome man and a very scientific boxer. Morrissey was a hard fighter and defeated Heenan about 1859 in Canada, but Heenan made him look cheap as a fancy sparrer. Heenan also sparred at the New Bowery Theatre, which was on the Bowery near Division Street, east side with Aaron Jones and Murphy, the Irish Giant. About that time Sam Collier and Billy Edwards were at the head of the list in the light weight class. In the early seventies there was quite a noted resort on the west side of Broadway extending through to Fifth Avenue near Twenty-second Street. It was kept by George and Jerry Thomas, being an eating saloon and bar room. One of the greatest attractions of the place was a collection of cartoons made by Thomas Nast, which he got up for the Sanitary Fair during the war. It was popular for strangers visiting New York to see these relics. Jerry





Thomas eventually went to Denver where he died. The Lotos Club now possesses most of these pictures.

The beginning of the cheap concert rooms began about 1859-60. Canterbury Hall, formerly Mozart Hall, Broadway near Houston Street, and the Melodeon, near Spring Street (Chinese Assembly Rooms), were the first of the kind of these vile places of recreation, which spread like a disease to other parts of Broadway and to the Bowery, even up to West Twenty-third Street and Sixth Avenue. There were performances on the stage and tables in front of same, on which was served liquors, cigars and refreshments, the waiters being girls. Koster and Bial's was on West Twenty-third Street near Sixth Avenue and was very prominent of its kind. Barmore and McCollough's ice cream saloon was on Broadway near Eighth Street. The Sinclair House being on the south-east corner of Eighth Street. Mr. Barmore was the organizer of the Knickerbocker Ice Company, and resided at Bayside, Long Island.

Close to this locality was the noted house, No. 31 Bond Street, it being in a row of grand brick residences extending from Broadway to the Bowery, occupied by old citizens. It was on January 31, 1857, when the great Burdell murder took place at this location. Doctor Harvey Burdell, a prominent dentist, who had his home here, was found murdered in his room. The house was kept by a widow, Mrs. Emma Augusta Cunningham, who had two grown-up daughters. The other boarders were a Mr. John H. Eckles, who was in the hide and fat business in First Avenue, and a young man named Snodgrass, son of a clergyman at Warwick, New York, and Dan Ullman, a prominent politician. All of these people were brought into the case in a most unpleasant way, being suspicioned. No case of its kind ever attracted so much interest in New York as this one did. Crowds of people were in front of No. 31 daily for weeks, and years afterwards strangers would stop on the sidewalk and view the house. Extras were gotten out three or four times daily by the newspapers, describing the latest phase of the tragedy. Frank





Leslie's Illustrated, a weekly paper, got out two editions a week with harrowing wood cuts depicting everything horrible, but the papers sold, and that was what was desired.

The mystery which has hung over this foul deed has never been dispelled. Mrs. Cunningham, after trying to palm off a bogus baby, as the heir of Dr. Burdell, the fraud being discovered, left for California, where she died.

Laura Keene's New Theatre was just above Houston Street on the east side of Broadway, number 624. It was opened November 18, 1856. It was owned by James Meinell, who resided at South Oyster Bay, Long Island. His heirs were three daughters, who now reside in France. He also had two sons. Laura Keene played "Camille" here, as also "The American Cousin," when the elder Sothorn made his mark as "Lord Dundreary" and "Brother Sam," also the elder Holland and C. W. Couldock got well known, the former, especially, as when he died, the Rev. Mr. Sabine, of a church on Madison Avenue, refused to officiate at his funeral because he was an actor, but referred the applicant who desired the service, to a little church around the corner. This proved to be the Church of the Transfiguration (Episcopal), Rev. Dr. Houghton, rector. The funeral took place here, and this church has always been known from that time as "The Little Church Around the Corner." Rev. Mr. Sabine died August, 1913, funeral at his residence on Madison Avenue.

Joseph Jefferson played at this theatre in "The American Cousin," taking the character of the American. It brought him no fame, as Sothorn's character over-shadowed him. John T. Raymond also played here, as also Lotta.

This theatre on being vacated by Laura Keene in 1863, who went on the road with her troupe and was playing "The American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington, when and where the President, Abraham Lincoln, was shot by Wilkes Booth, April 15, 1865, changed proprietorship and name.

It was acquired by John Duff, who called it the Olympic Theatre. His son-in-law, Augustin Daly, the playwright,



acted as his agent, ably assisted by that very efficient gentleman, James W. Morrissey. Mrs. John Wood acted here in 1866, and in 1868 the humorous pantomime "Humpty Dumpty" with George L. Fox as the clown occupied the boards for an indefinite period. "Under the Gas Light" with C. F. Parsloe in the cast had a long run. "The Railroad Scene" was a great feature. "The Sea of Ice" or "A Maiden's Prayer" met with quite a success, George Jordan being in the cast, it being spectacular and grand. The drama "Richelieu" was burlesqued by George L. Fox as the cardinal, and it was at this Temple of the Muses that George Jones (The Count Johannes) appeared in Shakesperian characters and at every performance, he as well as his support male and female, were greeted with cat calls, being pelted with onions, apples, turnips and even eggs. The attack was really against him, and not his associates, many of them being quite proficient in their respective parts. The theatre was crowded at every performance and this was what was desired by the management. The shows at last got so riotous that the police had to be in the house and this soon brought them to an abrupt ending.

In 1856 a new theatre was erected at 677 Broadway where Tripler Hall had formerly stood. It was called Metropolitan Theatre, later Laura Keenes Varieties. It remained under her name only a short time, as William Burton removed there from Chambers Street in 1858 and renamed it Burtons Theatre. I saw Burton here in many of his old characters made famous in Chambers Street, and in a piece called "Brigham Young" which was a satire on the sect known as Mormons or Latter Day Saints, who founded Salt Lake City, Utah. I remember vividly one scene in particular depicted, there being some five or six large beds on the stage, and when the curtain went up each bed had four or five children in it. A pillow fight was in progress, the air being full of them when the father of the family, supposed to be Brigham Young, who at that period was the head of that community, being portrayed by Burton, suddenly appears upon the scene. Bedlam is at once let loose and more than a dozen pillows were





shot at him at once by the more venturesome, while the others scampered for their beds to get under the sheets, the audience screaming with laughter. On Burton relinquishing this theatre, it became the Winter Garden. Charles Mathews, an English actor, also appeared here. It was rumored at the time that he had a little altercation with Dolly Davenport. It took place in the lobby of the theatre, and in which a cowhide whip played a prominent part. The former's attention to the latter's wife was believed to be the cause of the trouble. She was a beautiful woman and appeared in the *Naiad Queen*, a spectacular piece. English opera was presented here, where for the first time I heard it. This theatre was in the rear of the Lafarge House, now the Broadway Central Hotel, which was called The Grand Central at one time, and was the scene on January 6, 1872, of the shooting of James Fisk, Jr., by Edward S. Stokes. He was convicted of murder, retried and convicted of manslaughter and served about four years in Sing Sing. He was within a few hours of being hanged when the stay came for his second trial.

Burton built a very fine house and hot houses adjoining at Glen Cove, Long Island, and his display of grapes at the County Fairs were of the finest description. Harry Placide resided at Babylon, Long Island. Many of the old Babylonians who are now living remember him well and speak of him in the highest manner for his many good qualities.

At the Winter Garden Dion Boucicault played in the "Octoroon" with his wife, Agnes Robertson, as Zoe. "The Naiad Queen," as also "Midsummer's Night's Dream" was produced in grand style. Helen Western, who was a beautiful woman, appeared in both pieces. Kate Bateman played in "Evangeline," as also in "Leah." Among others were Charlotte Cushman, supported by Studley, as Lady Macbeth, and Charles Mathews, Mark Smith, Mrs. John Wood and John Brougham in "Pocahontas." And it was here, in 1864, Edwin, John Wilkes and Junius Brutus Booth were seen together in "Julius Caesar." The theatre was destroyed by fire March 23, 1867, and not rebuilt.





In addition to William R. Blake, Harry Placide and Barney Williams, previously mentioned, the following are interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, William J. Florence, William E. Burton, who died February 9, 1860, Fred B. Conway and his wife Sarah Crocker, John Brougham, Charles M. Walcott, and in the Wallack burial plot is the grave of Lester Wallack and his father James W. Wallack. Under an imposing sarcophagus of white marble in the Wallack plot is the grave of Harry Montague. Laura Keene's grave is also in Greenwood.

The Academy of Music in East Fourteenth Street and Irving Place, was opened October 2, 1854. La Grange, Brignoli, Adelina Patti, Carlotta Patti, Piccolomini, Lucca, Clara Louise Kellogg, Parepa Rosa sang here in the late fifties and early sixties, and in the seventies Emma Abbott, Campanini, Del Puente, Ravelle, Christine Nilson and Gurster. Adelina Patti sang here November 24, 1859, at the age of sixteen in Lucia, she being under the management of her brother-in-law, Max Strackosch. It was destroyed by fire, May 21-22, 1866, rebuilt and again in 1868 and rebuilt. As years rolled by the old theatres down town, such as Barnums at Ann Street, Burtons in Chambers Street, and Wallacks on Broadway near Broome, were obliterated, some by fire and others to make way for business houses. Niblos, Broadway above Prince Street, Olympic, Broadway just above Houston Street, and the Minstrel Shows of the Bryants, Christys, Buckley's Serenaders remained on their old sites for some years. Wallacks moved to northeast corner of Broadway and Thirteenth Street about 1861, which ground was formerly occupied by a circus. His old theatre was then called the Broadway. "Caste" was first played here by Billy Florence and his wife in August 1867. At the same time many new theatres were erected and many new actors and actresses appeared. Wallack with his old company removed entire to his new theatre, his business man and partner being Theo. Morse. The young English actor Montague appeared here, but only for a short period, as he was taken ill, and died in



New York universally lamented. It was in 1871-72 that I was introduced to Harry Montague while making a New Year's call at the home of N. L. McCready, 10 West Twenty-second Street. Barney Williams, the brother-in-law of Florence, being the lessee of the Broadway, or its manager, Florence took the part in the role of George D'Alroy, his wife portraying that of Polly, Mrs. F. S. Chanfrau that of Esther Eccles, while that grand old comedian, William Davidge, took the character of Eccles, and last but not least Mrs. G. H. Gilbert as the marquise. In 1868 Mr. Wallack produced this comedy at his Broadway and Thirteenth Street Theatre. Charles Fisher had the role of D'Alroy, J. H. Stoddart as Eccles, Rose Eytinge as Esther, \*Effie Germon appeared as Polly and Emily Mestayer as the marquise. It had a good run. Osmond Tearle, John Howsen, Rose Coghlan, Ada Dyas and Madelene Henriques appeared on the boards of this theatre. The great piece "Rosedale" made a success here in 1863 (Oct. 5), Lester Wallack taking the character of Elliott Grey, ably supported by Mrs. John Hoey, Mary Gannon, Effie Germon and Mrs. Vernon. John Gilbert took the part of the gipsy in this piece. Charles Fisher was also of the cast. One of the most interesting scenes in this play was the third act depicting the gipsy camp in the woods, which has come back to me in the most marked way on many occasions, as I saw Lester Wallack disguised as an old broken down soldier, associating with these Nomad's and singing to them the cracksman's song, so as to carry out his assumed character. Night comes on and the whole aggregation are at rest, when Elliott Grey sneaks out to find the child Sir Arthur, who had disappeared and supposed to have been drowned. Mary Gannon as Rosa Leigh had recited to Elliott Grey and which he had committed to memory the ballad, Lord Bateman, which she had often sung to the missing boy, and which Elliott Grey knew the boy would recognize at once if he heard it, provided he was anywhere within the environments of the camp.

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\*Effie Germon died March 6, 1914.





Mary Gannon while reciting the song is seen wrapping her handkerchief around a wound on the wrist of Lester Wallack. Quite a characteristic part of the scene. Every gipsy was asleep when Elliot Grey started to sing the following lines:

Lord Bateman was a noble lord,  
A noble lord was he of high degree;  
And he determined to go abroad,  
In hopes some foreign countries he might see.

But then there was a reason good,  
To think the little boy alive might be;  
So he went to the wild, wild wood,  
To find and take him to his mother dear.

As he finished the last word, a poor little ragged, half-starved looking child crawls across the stage to him, and recognizing him cries out "Elliot" who grabs the child in his arms and embracing him says "You little rascal, what will your mother say to you?" Mrs. John Hoey taking the character of his mother. At this moment Miles McKenna (John Gilbert) the chief of the tribe comes on the scene and calls his gipsies, who run on with clubs, as Elliot calls out for his lancers, who had surrounded the camp, and they capture the whole outfit.

The Grand Opera House of a later date was built by Samuel Pike of Cincinnati, Ohio, corner of Twenty-third Street and Eighth Avenue. It was opened January 9, 1868 called Pikes Opera House. In 1869 James Fisk, Jr., acquired it through his connection with the Erie Railroad. He named it Grand Opera House. It is now owned by the Gould family, who inherited it from their father Jay Gould, who was at one time a partner of James Fisk, Jr., Fortescue, Roland Reed and Sol Smith Russell all appeared in New York at a later period at one of the prominent theatres.

The Fifth Avenue Theatre, which was one of those of a later date was in Twenty-fourth Street adjoining the Fifth Avenue Hotel. It was opened about 1867 by Christy's Min-





strels. After that Leffingwell ran it with a burlesque company, then John Brougham took it in 1869 and called it Broughams Theatre, which was not a success. Later it was taken by Augustin Daly, with a grand stock company, the principal ones being George Clark, William Davidge, John Drew, Ada Rehan, James Lewis, Agnes Ethel, Kate Newton, Mrs. Gilbert and Fanny Davenport. "Frou Frou" was played here, as also "Man and Wife and Divorce." The theatre was burned down on January 1, 1873, but was rebuilt. Couldock made a name here in "Hazel Kirke." "The Rajah" was also played here. Steele McKay was the lessee for a long time. The stage of this theatre was a double one. It raised and lowered so a scene could be set while a performance went on. In 1865 there was a theatre on Broadway, No. 728, directly opposite Waverly Place, it being erected on the site of a Unitarian church. It had a most varied career. It was erected by the A. T. Stewart Estate, of which Judge Henry Hilton was the executor. If I remember rightly, Lucy Rushton was the first lessee. Subsequently the Worrell Sisters came in possession and called it the New York Theatre. It was a failure. Mark Smith as also Dan Harkins tried as managers to make a success here, which also ended in disaster, and the theatre seemed to be a hoodoo until Edward Harrigan and Toney Hart took it and called it the Theatre Comique. They had a great success, which really was their undoing, as at the zenith of same they separated and each one went his own way, and neither succeeded. Together they were a good team, but apart seemed failures. Annie Yeamans appeared at this house. I think this was about 1870. After Harrigan and Hart left this place, it was called the Streets of Old London and became a home for prize fights and other low uses. It was really desecrated until Daly took it in 1873, after the burning of his Fifth Avenue Theatre, and called it Daly's New Fifth Avenue Theatre. He opened it with "Alixé," Clara Morris (Mrs. Harriott) in the title role. "The New Magdalene" was also played here, and the sensational drama "Under the Gaslight."



Hope Chapel, which was formerly a church, was situated on the east side of Broadway just below Eighth Street. I saw the Davenport Brothers here in their wonderful "spirit" cabinet trick. Signor Blitz, who resided in Brooklyn, subsequently occupied this house with his performances, "slight of hand" he being one of the best in that line. Kelly and Leon, the latter Eugene, the wench dancer, had a minstrel troupe here in 1866. Lena Edwards afterwards occupied the premises about 1870 for theatrical purposes.

The Union Square Theatre was erected on Union Square between Broadway and Fourth Avenue early in 1871, directly adjoining the Morton House. It was owned and managed by Sheridan Shook, subsequently by A. M. Palmer. "The Two Orphans" made a great success at this house, where this piece was first produced. Kate Claxton, Charles Stevenson, O'Neill and Ringold being in the cast, and Ida Vernon as the nun. Clara Morris, Agnes Ethel, Stuart Robson, W. H. Wilder, Sara Jewett, Meta Newton, Emily Mestayer, Eliza Weathersby, Maude Granger and Marie Wilkins all appeared here, as also Charles R. Thorne, Lingard, Florence Gerard, McKee Rankin, Maud Harrison, John Purcell, W. H. Crane and W. S. Wheatleigh, F. F. Mackay, Montgomery, Claude Burroughs. At a subsequent date, December 5, 1876, this piece "Two Orphans" was being played at the Brooklyn Theatre, Kate Claxton and many of the original cast being in it. The theatre caught fire and was destroyed, which caused a great loss of life, about three hundred people being lost. Kate Claxton was among those saved in a heroic and sensational way, while poor Ringold was among the lost. Croakers at the time looked upon it as a retribution, as the theatre was erected on the site of old St. John's Church, corner of Johnson and Washington Streets. The land on which the church stood had been donated by the late Rev. E. M. Johnson and the church built, he being its rector for many years, being succeeded by Dr. Guion and Dr. Seymour, who eventually became Bishop of Illinois. Business came in the neighborhood and a new church was erected further away and the





old church demolished, the theatre taking its place under the management of Mrs. Fred B. Conway.

The Park Theatre which was on Broadway east side just above Twenty-first Street, was also of a later date. It was erected in 1882 and on the day of its opening, October 30, 1882, at five o'clock in the afternoon, was totally destroyed by fire. Henry E. Abbey was the lessee. Lillie Langtry, the great English Beauty (Jersey Lily), was to have played here at the opening. She was staying at the Fifth Avenue Hotel and saw the fire from the window of her room. The stage setting was very elaborate. The furniture I think was loaned by Herter, one of New York's best manufacturers. It was all lost. The piano, which was to have been in the same scene with the handsome furnishings, was to have been loaned to the theatre by the well-known old piano manufacturers, Haines Brothers. The instrument was on the dray, just about leaving their factory, corner of Second Avenue and Twenty-first Street, when the writer of this work saw the fire, and advised them of its location. The delay of delivery of the piano toward sundown had saved it. Harry Hill offered the Jersey Lily his theatre in Houston Street, which was declined with thanks. The offer was doubtless made in good faith by the donor. This theatre was quickly rebuilt, Henry E. Abbey still being its manager. I saw Oakey Hall, who was Mayor of New York, 1869 to 1871, during the Tweed ring exposures (he succeeding John T. Hoffman as Chief Magistrate of the City) act the principal character in a play of his own production at this theatre after his term of office as Mayor had expired. He was indicted by the Grand Jury and stood trial for malfeasance in office. He was honorably acquitted, the verdict being a popular one. The drama in which he appeared was written and acted by him, so as really to portray his own case, to show that an innocent party could very readily be placed in a position where his acts on the surface appeared to the eye as that of guilt, at the same time being perfectly and absolutely innocent of any wrongdoing. The stepping stone to the office of Mayor for him had





been that of District Attorney, which position he had filled with great ability and approval of the citizens of New York. His unfortunate occupancy of the Mayoralty at this season of crookedness in official positions of so many men connected with the city government of New York, cast a dark cloud upon the bright future of this man, which was little anticipated by him or his many friends, causing his latter days to be ended in obscurity. John T. Hoffman who had been Recorder of the city, and then Mayor, had been elected as Governor of the State of New York, 1869-72.

Booth's Theatre was on Twenty-third Street corner of Sixth Avenue. I saw Barrett, Bangs, Milnes Levick and E. L. Davenport at this house in Julius Caesar in 1876. Laurence Barrett was Caius Cassius, F. C. Bangs was Marcus Antonius, E. L. Davenport was Marcus Junius Brutus, Milnes Levick as Casius Julius Caesar. E. K. Collier was Octavius Caesar, Mary Wells was Portia, wife to Brutus, Rose Rand as Calphurina, wife of Caesar. John McCollough also appeared here.

I can confidently say that I saw nearly every one of the actors and actresses, as well as opera singers, that I have mentioned in the foregoing. I also heard Thalberg, Pianist, play in a hall on Broadway just above the Metropolitan Hotel. I think it was called Chickering Hall. Around on Mercer Street, near Houston, in the vicinity of Firemen's Hall, was the stable of Horace Jones, and where Brokaw's clothing store now is, Lafayette Place and Eighth Street, was the stable of Underhill and Fleet, both of whom came from Oyster Bay, Long Island, and were great horsemen. Commodore Vanderbilt's home was on the corner of Mercer Street and Washington Place, his stable adjoining, the New York Hotel, built in 1847, being directly opposite, which occupied the whole block front on Broadway, Washington Place and Waverley Place. It was a great home during the war for Southern sympathizers; Langley Bruce, one of the great wits of the day, made his home at this hotel, which was kept by Hiram Cranstons.



St. Bartholomew's Church was on the corner of Fourth Street and Lafayette Place. Just above it was the Astor Library, while the Mercantile Library was in Clinton Hall, location of the Astor Place riots in 1849 against McCready, the English actor, by the friends of Ed Forrest, the American actor, in Astor Place, corner of Eighth Street, opposite the old Parrish Mansion on the corner of Lafayette. The old specialist, Doctor John Grey, resided next door to the Parrish home; corner of Broadway and Fourth Street was the home of Phillip Hone, Hope Chapel being just above on Broadway, on which was the great promenade, from Chambers to Fourteenth Street and later to Twenty-third Street. This was the boundary for many years. Hoopskirts were worn by the women, and if two came abreast, a large part of the sidewalk was taken up; and when a stage stopped to take in a lady, passersby would at once come to a halt to see how she managed to get through the stage door. Some of them would tip the skirt to one side, while others would compress it on both sides. It was a difficult undertaking, with all the Peeping Toms around, and when they got in only three could sit on each side, where six men could sit. Broadway from Bowling Green to Fourteenth Street was paved with a smooth block of stone called the Reuss pavement, dangerous for man or beast. It was channelled, but eventually removed, the Belgian Block taking its place. The long black charcoal wagons which you would see all over the city were quite a distinctive feature, as also the crying out of the chimney sweeps.

The Brevoort House was on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Eighth Street, where it is at present, largely patronized by Englishmen, especially captains of the English steamers. Dickel's Riding Academy was on Fifth Avenue near Thirty-seventh Street. The first elevated road was a crude affair built on stilts over the sidewalk on both sides of Greenwich Street from the Battery to Houston Street. The propelling power was an endless cable running over a wheel or drum at each end. It was not a success until Cyrus W. Field acquired it from its projectors and put on small locomotives. It was then





extended to Thirtieth Street, New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Depot, Ninth and Tenth Avenues.

The style of walking by some women in 1868-69 was really vile. It was called the Grecian Bend. It was seen at this time in all its glory or absurdity. Described, viz. high heeled shoes, head thrown back, bust protruded, bustle ditto. In this position they looked like the letter S. They assumed a sickening mincing gait and attracted every passerby. It did not last long. Horace Lingard sang a song at the Comique Theatre called the Grecian Bend.

Prominent merchants and bankers you could meet most any morning on their way down town. A large man with a red moustache and side whiskers would be seen every day walking down on the west side of Broadway, which was called the two shilling side, on his way to his office, which was on the north side of Prince, just west of Broadway, being a one-story building. This was John Jacob Astor, who resided northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-third Street. The little old gentleman passing in a one-horse coupe, the horse attached being a handsome brown mottled, and the occupant of the vehicle distinguished by his spectacles with side as well as front glasses, he carrying under his arm an inflated rubber ring cushion, was the greatly revered citizen and philanthropist, Peter Cooper. You would often meet Samuel J. Tilden on horseback riding up Fifth Avenue to the park. Frank Copcutt, who was a bachelor and was of an old New York family of rosewood and mahogany importers you would likely meet almost daily either on Fifth Avenue or Broadway. He was a thorough exquisite in appearance, being immaculate in his dress, carrying a gold headed riding whip, with moustache and side whiskers dyed a jet black, and spectacles on, he would be mounted on a grand long-tailed black horse. Being a most accomplished equestrian, attention was attracted to him at once, which he seemed to rather enjoy.





## CHAPTER ELEVEN

MANY queer characters were met on this long thoroughfare. The long lanky built man, approaching, taking his morning walk, getting a little round shouldered, is the celebrated old pugilist, Tom Hyer, who fought Yankee Sullivan and proved the victor. Hyer was quite a horseman, and in his late years owned the old gray mare, Lady Blanch, the first foal that Abdallah got. She was raised by John Tredwell, of West Hills, Long Island, and accompanied the slate-colored American (Boston Blue) over to England. She died in 1855 at Sim Hoagland's, East New York, he being her last owner.

The pompous and fat individual close behind Hyer, also taking his morning walk, is old Brown, the well-known sexton of Grace Church at Tenth Street and Broadway. He was an undertaker by day, a caterer and major domo who supplied the supper and summoned the carriages at private parties or weddings at night, and the grand usher, in his swallowtail coat, of the church on Sunday. He was a most proficient man at each one of these callings. Old Doctor Townsend, who was formerly from Albany, with his long white beard and hair, dressed in immaculate white, with a white hat, carrying an umbrella of the same color, attracted much attention; as also another doctor, a large, tall man with long gray hair and beard, dressed in black clothes, generally velvet, with ruffled shirt front with cuffs, knee breeches, low shoes and silver buckles on same. His coat was generally very long. He wore spectacles and a cocked hat on his head. It was surmised that he dressed this way for notoriety, being a quack. The Blue Man was also met on many occasions, his complexion being a queer freak of nature. The lime kiln man was also quite a curiosity. He was always covered with lime, being a tall and uncouth figure and usually dressed same as a laborer, being bespattered with lime. His long hair was matted with the



same material, as also his face. Though he looked as if he was in great poverty, this singular mortal was not a professional beggar as he never asked for alms on the street or anywhere else and he never noticed anyone who looked upon him with pity, but stalked right along entirely unconscious of all surroundings. No one knew from whence he came. He was found dead some years afterward in a lime kiln on the Hudson River, where he generally slept. The little sawed off Irish dwarf, Little Mac, was often visible on the street. His first appearance as a freak was at Bryants Minstrels. His last to date was carrying a sign board advertising a restaurant, as I saw him in 1913 on Prospect Avenue in the Bronx. Quite a unique character was the Straw Man. He had a farm wagon with shelvings on it loaded with straw and a poor looking white horse attached, and would slowly meander down on the east side as far as Park Row, calling out "Stroh, Stroh," but I never saw him sell a sheaf, still he kept it up for years. It was at that time used for mattresses. Another character was Marcus Cicero Stanley. He had red hair and beard and was a man quite well known around town. Josh Billings with long black hair, and Jeems Pipes with his mop head of hair were often met, as well as Mark Twain.

The large brown stone mansion on Broadway, east side just south of Thirteenth Street, was the residence of Judge Roosevelt, and the brick house on the west corner of Fourteenth Street was also the home of the Roosevelt family. Fourteenth Street, both east and west, was occupied by private residences, except the old Penniman brown stone house between Broadway and University Place. This became the celebrated Maison Doree, an elegantly fitted up restaurant and ice cream saloon with gilt entrance, Willim M. Evarts' house being on the northwest corner of Second Avenue, while Moses H. Grinnell lived on the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue. Daniel Drew lived on the southwest corner of Seventeenth Street and Broadway, Robert Goelet being his neighbor in the brick house on the northwest corner. On the corner of Fifteenth Street and Union Square Dr. Cheever's church stood.





The old Tiffany store is now on the site. Next door to Dr. Cheever's church on the west side of Union Square was located the Spingler Institute. It was subsequently changed into a hotel and called the Spingler House, being run by Coe of the Revere House. Union Square Park had an iron fence around it with large gates at each end and on the sides. The equestrian Washington monument was erected on the Fourteenth Street side about 1855 to 1856. The Stuyvesant pear tree, which was quite historic of early New York, was on the northeast corner of Third Avenue and Thirteenth Street. It had an iron fence around it. The new Parrish residence was on the east corner of Seventeenth Street and Broadway, while further east on the same block was the grand brown stone mansion of Doctor Moffatt used as Fenian headquarters, the Everett House being adjoining, which was finished in 1855-56. Mrs. Haight's grand house was on the corner of Fifteenth Street and Fifth Avenue, later occupied by Marshall O. Roberts. Gordon S. Burnham, who gave the Webster statue to the city, being in Central Park, resided on the southwest corner of Eighteenth Street and Fifth Avenue, while on the northeast corner resided August Belmont, formerly United States Minister to The Hague. His picture gallery was in the rear, directly over the entrance to his stables. Robert L. Stuart was on the northwest corner of Twentieth Street; Francis B. Cutting, corner of Twenty-first Street and Fifth Avenue, east side; The Union Club on the west side of Fifth Avenue, northwest corner of Twenty-first Street; Peter Goellet had the whole block front on Broadway, Nineteenth to Twentieth Street; his large brick house stood in the center, his barns being in the rear, where he kept fancy poultry, cattle and horses; James Lenox lived on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Twelfth Street. The St. Germain Hotel was on Twenty-second Street, Broadway and Fifth Avenue. It was erected about 1856-57. The Flatiron Building now covers the site. All of the streets crossing Broadway from Fourteenth Street to Fourth and Sixth Avenues up to this point were lined with rows of four-story brown stone houses. Mr.





George Irving, an old New Yorker, lately residing at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, resided in East Twenty-second Street. I saw his uncle, Washington Irving, the great historian, at this place in 1857, who died November 28, 1859, and was buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery at Tarrytown, New York. He was born at 131 William Street and resided for many years corner of Ann Street and William. Madison Square is now reached, with its beautiful foliage. There was a fence around this park for many years. Some grand houses were on Fifth Avenue from Twenty-third to Thirty-fourth Street, on the northwest corner of which Dr. Townsend, of sarsaparilla fame, had erected the finest house in New York. It was really the show place of the city. The house cost about \$250,000. It was demolished to make room for the new Stewart marble palace, which in its turn was obliterated. The Knickerbocker Trust Company edifice now covers the site. Hardly any residences were above this point, as the Rutgers' School was at Forty-first Street and Fifth Avenue. I took a long walk up there on a Sunday afternoon in 1858 to see the corner stone of the Roman Catholic Cathedral laid by Archbishop Hughes. The lower part of this grand edifice is constructed of marble procured at Pleasantville, Westchester County. It was called snow flake quarry marble. The Colored Orphan Asylum was on Madison Avenue, about Forty-fourth Street. It was burned down by the rioters in the draft riots of 1863.

The author of this article saw the fire at 1190 Broadway, near Twenty-ninth Street, where the first drawing was taking place to get soldiers for the army, July 11, 1863. This building was also destroyed by the rioters, as also the factory, corner of Twenty-first Street and Second Avenue, Haines Brothers piano factory. It was then being used for the making of guns by George Opdyke, who was mayor of the city. He lived on Fifth Avenue near Nineteenth Street. The author's name was in the wheel three times, but was never drawn. The Benjamin Nathan residence was a four-story brown stone house on the south side of West Twenty-third Street near Fifth Avenue. Mr. Nathan was found murdered



here. This was July 29, 1870. The Rutgers College was a long brick building painted yellow and took up the whole block front on the east side of Fifth Avenue between Forty-first and Forty-second Streets. William Butler Duncan's residence is corner of Eighth Street and Fifth Avenue, No. 1, west side. Alfred B. Darling's was near Twenty-fifth Street, Mrs. Paran Stevens near Twenty-seventh Street, the Hendricks family at Twenty-eighth, Francis Skiddy corner of Thirtieth, Peter Moller, the great sugar refiner, at Thirty-second, northeast corner, Mr. Schenck, 323 Fifth Avenue, W. B. Astor corner of Thirty-fourth Street and John Jacob Astor corner of Thirty-third Street, both west side. The Waldorf Astoria Hotel now covers the site of both of these residences. John H. Harbeck resided near Twenty-seventh Street on Fifth Avenue and Frank Work on Twenty-sixth Street opposite Madison Square Park.



## CHAPTER TWELVE

**F**LEETWOOD Park came into existence at a later date. It was just across the Harlem River (MacCombs Dam Bridge) at Morrissania, being laid out on the old Morris Manor place, at about 164th Street, opening in the early part of 1870 and the closing race was on October 23, 1897. I believe that I saw the opening and the closing of this favorite old track, it being close to the city it could readily be reached, so that the attendance was generally good. I can well remember light road wagons and carriages on their way there getting choked up at the entrance to the bridge, which was under the care of that much respected old police officer, Charley Isaacs, who would always untangle the jam and get everyone over safely without a smashup. He was well known and had the respect of all the road drivers, and at Christmas time was remembered in a very substantial way by them all. Some of the greatest trots that ever took place came off on this track under the bluff. I will only mention a few of the principal ones. John R. Gentry against Star Pointer, the former winning by a close margin. The great three-minute class in which Phallas, who belonged to J. I. Case of Racine, Wisconsin, was entered, he being looked upon as a sure winner by his western adherents, but a little bay horse who had been bought at an auction sale was also entered. He belonged to Nathan Strauss and was driven by John Murphy. His name was Majolica. The latter winning the race. Time was about 2:17. Another prominent race which took place there was a fast class one, in which Phil Thompson Lucy Gernent, Jay Eye See and others competed. Phil Thompson was driven by John Murphy, and Gernent by Charlie Green. The former choked at the quarter pole, swerved and fell down, the mare going right over him, resulting in a bad mix-up. Both drivers were quite badly hurt and it was a long time before they could drive again. Jay



# REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

By JOHN BURNET, BISHOP OF SALTHERY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

LONDON, Printed by J. Streater, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1680.

THE first of these two Volumes, contains the History of the Life and Reign of King CHARLES THE FIRST, from his Birth to his Execution. The second Volume, contains the History of the Life and Reign of King CHARLES THE SECOND, from his Birth to his Death.

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Eye See was also in this race, which he won with ease. Edward and Dick Swivler owned by Frank Work trotted a mile on this track in  $2:16\frac{3}{4}$ , which time knocked everything on record up to that date. William H. Vanderbilt drove Maud S. and Aldine a mile in public here in  $2:15\frac{1}{2}$ , which was in 1883. I saw Mr. Vanderbilt drive Aldine and Early Rose about that time one afternoon about four o'clock. While driving the reverse way of the track on the first turn he was run into by a trainer driving a single horse to a skeleton wagon. Mr. Vanderbilt was thrown out and knocked senseless, but being covered with sealskin robes, escaped any concussion. He was picked up by a very popular and affable man of that day, Mr. John Quinn, who had a stable in 125th Street near Madison Avenue. On being taken to the Club house, he quickly recovered and was taken to his home corner of Thirty-ninth Street and Fifth Avenue in a carriage. I think this accident made him a shade timid, as I rarely saw him driving after this event. The horses were not hurt, being quickly caught by the stableman on the track. Many noted fast ones turned the old Fleetwood Track, such as St. Julian, Rarus, Edwin Forest, Santa Claus, Joe Patchen, Clingstone, Henry, Great Eastern, Cleora, The Black Wonder Guy from Cleveland, who was a whirlwind, Jay Eye See, Steve Maxwell, Maud S., Sunol, and Startle. Rarus trotted a race here under saddle against Great Eastern in 1877. Eastern won in  $2:15\frac{3}{4}$ .

I must not forget to refer to the sleighing carnivals which were enjoyed by New York and Brooklyn horsemen. As a general thing, most all the best horses were in the winter season sent out on Long Island to be kept by the farmers, both in Kings, Queens, and Suffolk Counties. Carl Burr's place at Comac was in the latter county, but a good reserve was generally kept for sleighing purposes, the old Bloomingdale Road being the principal snowpath on Manhattan Island, the road houses being Burnham's, The Abbey and Jones' Claremont. Harlem Lane came in a little later, the Atlantic Hotel being on the corner of 125th Street, Bertholf's at 146th Street,



Freeman's at the bridge, with Florence's directly opposite. John Barry kept the latter hostelry for many years at a later period, and across the bridge you got on Central Avenue, which became a great speeding ground. The sheds at Gabe Case's, Judge Smith's and Sibbons, on a good snow fall were always full, with the people standing on the piazzas seeing the trotters race by. Many of the downtown horsemen would cross the ferry and join the Brooklyn contingent, up Fulton Avenue, through the toll gate at Bedford, then to East New York, leading past Whelan's to John I. Snedcor's Hotel. This celebrated place was noted for its suppers and balls during the winter season. There was always a crowd and much difficulty was experienced in having your horses cared for when you arrived late. It was really the mecca for the sleighride parties and during the sleighing season, which sometimes lasted several months, a dance was given every night in the large ball room on the second floor of the house. The music and suppers were of the best obtainable and Heidsieck flowed like water all night. Those desiring a more extended ride would go on to Jamaica stopping at the well-known road house of Jim Remsen and that of Cale Weeks. It was open house all night at all of these places and along toward day break the revellers would race home to Brooklyn or to Fulton Ferry by those who had come from New York to the accompanying sweet cadence of the crisping snow and the numerous strings of bells on the horses. Many a New Yorker was observed straggling over the ferry by day light and very often on the bare ground, having been caught in a thaw. You would see many four-horse teams attached to large family sleighs covered with strings of bells around their necks and over their backs, and many of these teams were speedy. Extreme cold weather sometimes prevailed, which necessitated the merry makers being well covered with Buffalo skins, these being in general use and could be bought very cheaply.

During the last winter of the existence of these carnivals the cold was so intense that a party from Love Lane, Brooklyn, arrived home at the stable only to find the driver on the box



seat frozen to death and holding the reins in his hands, he being the son of the proprietor of the stable who owned the sleigh and horses. The party was entirely oblivious that they were taken to their destination safely by instinct of the good horse with Death as their driver.





## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THE City of New York during the draft riots faced the worst situation probably that it ever encountered. The government started the draft, which was the first experience of this kind that the people of New York had ever faced before, at a most inopportune time. Recruiting had diminished and the only way to fill the ranks of our army, which was being decimated, was to resort to this extreme. The State Militia were out of the city on a three months' enlistment. The rough element took advantage of this and used the drafting as an excuse for all kinds of lawlessness. Men were hung to lamp posts, robbery in every shape occurred, houses were broken in right in the day time with their occupants at home, and goods stolen without anyone to stop them. The police were perfectly powerless. I stood on the corner of Wall and South Streets and saw a lot of hoodlums march past grabbing people right on the sidewalk to join them. No negro dared to show himself, so all that could do so, got out of the city to Weeksville, which is in the lower part of Brooklyn. No street cars were running for three days. The writer being at Twenty-third Street on the second day of the riot there was no way for him to get to the ferry so as to cross to Brooklyn, so he got across the upper ferry to Greenpoint and reached his destination by that route. A floating elevator was burned in the Atlantic Dock, and as a volunteer fireman, the author was there with his company. It being about 11:15 at night, he carried a pistol for the first and only time in his life for protection.

At last the government brought a detachment of regulars here. They landed foot of Eighteenth Street East River and came up to Second Avenue, where they met the rioters between Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets directly opposite the Haines Brothers Piano Factory, and immediately gave them a volley. This rather dampened their ardor and stopped the riot in that



part of the city until the police department could get in shape again from their utter demoralization, (July 13-16, 1863).

On every twelfth of July there always occurred for many years trouble between the Orangemen and those opposed to them, who did not care to see the battle of the Boyne commemorated, which took place in Ireland over two hundred years ago. Fighting in the streets and parks was in vogue in many parts of the city and the State Militia was often called upon to subdue same as the police did not appear to be able to meet the situation. The last riot was in 1871 and 1872.

I would mention here a little history relative to the New York City Hall referred to in previous chapters. When the City Hall was erected in 1811 it was considered a long way up town, really in the country, and to cut down the expense of building it all of marble it was thought that the rear of same would rarely be seen, therefore a cheaper material should be used there in place of the marble which is on the front and two ends. Brown stone from Bellville, New Jersey, was used to fill the bill and to make it correspond in color with the balance of the edifice, which had remained as originally designed for one hundred years, the rear was painted white a few years ago (1890). Besides Battery Park at the south and Central Park at the north end, the only real breathing spots for New Yorkers were the Bowling Green, foot of Broadway, City Hall Park, Broadway, Chambers Street and Park Row, St. Johns Park, Hudson and Varick Streets, Washington Park, Waverly Place and Fourth Street, Union Square, Fourth Avenue, Broadway and Seventeenth Street, Gramercy Park, Irving Place, Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets, Stuyvesant Park, Second Avenue, Fifteenth to Seventeenth Streets, Madison Square Park, Broadway, Madison Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, Reservoir Park, Fifth Avenue, Forty-second Street and Sixth Avenue, Hamilton Park, Third Avenue and Sixty-sixth Street, Tompkins Park, Eighth, Tenth and Avenue A, Jones Woods, foot of Seventy-second Street and East River, all located on Manhattan Island.

In the fifties New Yorkers, if any way possible, would



get out of town for two weeks' vacation in the summer time, by those in moderate circumstances, while the wealthy would stay away the months of July and August. It was only the extreme rich who could afford a country place in the summer and a four-story brown stone house in the city for their winter home. The latter had elegant places on the east bank of the Hudson River as far up as Garrisons, also grand places at Newport. Many were on Long Island, Staten Island, and on the East River from Astoria to Throggs Neck, and on the Sound at New Rochelle, where the Iselin family and Lelands had grand mansions. The Woolley's, Buckley's and Soutter's resided at Astoria, while the Dickey's Watson's Spofford's, Vyse's, and Adees lived at Hunts Point and the Havemeyer's, Barreto's, Caswell's, Lorillard, Huntington, and Zerega's were on the same shore further east. The watering place hotels nearest New York were the Neptune House at New Rochelle, Pavilion at Glen Cove, Pavilion at Far Rockaway, Long Island, Pavilion at New Brighton, Staten Island, Bath Beach Hotel at Bath Beach, Long Island, Dominy's and Surf Hotel at Fire Island, Argyle and American at Babylon, Stellenwerths and the Pavilion at Islip. The LaTorre House was at Bergen Point, New Jersey. The Rutherford Park Hotel was on the Passaic River near Passaic, while small boarding houses abounded in all these localities. The Fashionable places for the well-to-do were Cozzens, and Roes, Hotel at West Point, Watchhill on the Sound, Sharon, Cooperstown, Lake George, Lenox, Saratoga and Ballston, New York, while Long Branch, Cape May and Old Point Comfort were the principal seashore places, Long Branch being the closest to New York. The principal hotels there were the United States, Howlands, Mansion House, and Conovers. The easiest way to get there was by boat to Sandy Hook. The boats were the "Alice Price," "Long Branch" and "Highland Light." At the point of the hook, you would take stages with wide tired wheels, taking a ride four miles along the shore. At Atlantic Highlands near the lighthouse there were several summer hotels.





Lake Mahopac was also quite a summer resort, the hotels being Thompsons, Deans, and the Pavilion.

At other parts of this work I have mentioned some of the daily papers of the late fifties, but will here give them in detail as I remember them. The Journal of Commerce was on the corner of Beaver and Hanover Streets, and was edited by a Mr. Stone, who resided in Brooklyn. The Courier and Enquirer office was in Pearl Street between Wall and Pine, opposite the great printing house of George F. Nesbitt and Company. The editor of this paper was James Watson Webb. In politics it was Republican, while the Journal of Commerce was Democratic. In the late fifties or early sixties, the Courier and Enquirer merged with the New York World, the editor of same being Manton Marble. The New York Morning and Evening Express was in Nassau Street corner of Wall and was edited by James and Erastus Brooks. The politics of this paper tendered rather toward the Native Americans or Know Nothings, later it became a Democratic paper.

The Evening Post edited by William Cullen Bryant was corner of Nassau and Liberty Streets. It was Republican in politics. The Commercial Advertiser was on Fulton Street, southwest corner of Nassau, the New York Herald being directly opposite on Nassau Street, edited by James Gordon Bennett. The Commercial was Republican in politics. The Herald was independent and in April 1861 when everyone was supposed to show their colors, a mob of men surrounded the Herald as well as the Journal of Commerce office and forced them to put out the American flag. The New York Sun was corner of Frankfort and Nassau Streets, edited by Charles A. Dana, Republican in politics. The New York Tribune was on Nassau corner of Spruce, Horace Greeley being its editor. This paper was also Republican, really abolition in its sentiments, and before the war it was so strong in its articles in favor of abolition, that many people in New York City not coinciding in its views would hardly sit on the same side of a car with a man who they saw perusing the New York Tribune, and it was only a few years after this when Horace Greeley



became candidate of the Democratic party for President of the United States, which was in 1872, that those who reviled him years before walked up to the polls and voted for him. During the presidential canvass he was caricatured in the most cruel way by a noted cartoonist of the times in a weekly periodical, and within about forty-eight hours after the election in which he was most disastrously beaten I saw him standing on Forty-second Street with his light colored coat on looking in the gutter, just in front of the Grand Central Depot, not a soul with him, and my heart went out to the good old man. He died within three weeks of this time broken in mind and body. The illustrated weekly papers were Harper's Weekly, Frank Leslie's and Police Gazette. The New York Ledger, a story paper, came into existence in the early fifties, being edited by Robert Bonner. The Sunday papers were the New York Mercury, Sunday Times, Sunday Courier. The New York Daily Times was not as prominent as it is to-day. It was later edited by George Jones and Henry J. Raymond, who laid the foundation of its present greatness. The Brooklyn Eagle and the Brooklyn Union and Times were the only papers across the river of any account. The former was edited by Mr. Isaac Van Anden, being Democratic in politics. The two latter were Republican. The German paper was the Staats Zeitung and the French Des Etats Unis.

New York has been noted for having many very short streets, which are really not known to many people who have resided here all their life time. The shortest one of all is directly opposite the police station house in Oak Street, just off New Pearl Street, running from the latter street to Oak Street. It is about thirty feet in length and is called Chestnut Street. Edgar Street is the next shortest, from Trinity Place to Greenwich Street above Morris. Wheelawken Street runs for one block from Christopher to West Tenth Street, being the first street from West Street. Jones Street runs from West Fourth Street to Bleecker Street, named for Dr. Gardner Jones. There are two Jones Alleys of one block in length, one of them runs from Bond Street to Great Jones Street,





directly east of Broadway, the latter was named by Judge Samuel Jones, the other from Front Street to South Street, between Old Slip and Wall Street. The latter is called Jones Lane. Extra Place is in First Street, just east of Bowery.

Judge Samuel Jones was the great great grandfather of the writer. He and Doctor Gardner Jones married sisters, daughters of Elbert Haring, a large land owner in Greenwich Village. The upper part of Bleecker Street was called Herring Street (Haring) for many years after the family of this name. Cornelia Street, Fourth to Bleecker, got its name from Cornelia Haring, wife of Samuel Jones.

Among others was Hancock Street, Bleecker near McDougall; Marietta Street, Bleecker Street opposite Downing; Courtlandt Alley, Leonard Street to Canal; Jersey Street, Crosby to Mulberry Street; Catharine Lane, Broadway to Laffayette Street; Theatre Alley, Ann Street to Beekman; Hamilton Street, from Catharine to Market; City Hall Street, between Pearl and Duane; Mechanic Street, between Cherry and Monroe; Birmingham Street, between Madison and Henry; Congress Street, from King to West Houston; Caroline Street, Duane to Jay, just east of West Street; Mission Place, Worth to Park Street; Patchin Place, Tenth Street between Sixth Avenue and Greenwich Avenue; Milligan Place, on Sixth Avenue between Tenth and Eleventh Streets. Benson Street is east of Broadway at Worth Street. East Street runs from Grand to Houston, along the East River. Tinpot Alley runs from Broadway to Church Street, directly opposite to Exchange Place. Temple Street is west of Broadway just above Trinity Church, running from Thames to Cedar Street. Albany Street runs from Greenwich to West, between Carlisle and Cedar. Coenties Alley runs from Pearl to Stone, opposite Coenties Slip. Doyer Street runs from Bowery to Pell Street. It is in the Chinese quarter. Gay Street runs from Waverly Place to Christopher Street. Shinnbone Alley runs from Bleecker to Bond Street, just east of Broadway; Pell Street, between Mott Street and Bowery; Liberty Place, Maiden Lane to Liberty Street; York Street,





West Broadway below Canal to St. Johns Lane rear of St. Johns Church; Staple Street, Duane to Harrison, west of Hudson Street; Hall Street, rear of Tompkins Market at Seventh Street; Dutch Street, between Fulton and John; Jacob Street, between Frankfort and Ferry Streets, Carlisle Street, Greenwich to West, next to Rector Street.

The large markets were quite a feature of old times. Housewives would visit them and take home enough to last for a week. Among them was Franklin Market in Old Slip, Fulton Market at the foot of Fulton Street, East River, Catharine Market at the foot of Catharine Street, East River, Essex Market, Grand Street, near Ludlow Street, Center Market, on Broome corner of Center, Washington Market, foot of Vesey Street, North River, Clinton Market, corner of Spring and West Streets, Jefferson Market, Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street, Tompkins, Third Avenue and Seventh Street.



## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

**R**ELATIVE to graveyards, most all of them have been obliterated, except those in churchyards, like Trinity, St. Paul's, St. John's, St. Mark's and the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Prince Street. There was one corner of Carmine and Hudson, which is now a park. Another was on East Houston Street near the Bowery next to Fisher and Bird's marble yard. St. Augustine's Church is now on the site. Another was the corner of Houston and Forsyth, tenement houses are now on that site. Still another was on the north side of First Street, east of Second Avenue. The graves were all removed and tenements built up on the site. There were also a few graves on Second Avenue, east side between First and Second Streets, in the rear of some tenements, which have never been removed. The gravestones were knocked down and some vestige of them still remains to this day. A little Jewish graveyard still exists on New Bowery just off Chatham Square, south side in rear of some tenements. It can be seen from the elevated road. The New York City Marble Cemetery in Second Street, between First and Second Avenues still exists and interments are sometimes made there in old family vaults. A marble monument now stands therein to the memory of Preserved Fish of an old New York family. The same company, New York Marble Cemetery, owns another one situated in center of block between Second and Third Street, the entrance being on the west side of Second Avenue, solid wooden gates obscuring any view of the interior. There is a little graveyard on Twenty-first Street, west side in rear of a large dry goods house on Sixth Avenue, also one corner of Sixth Avenue and Eleventh Street, west side.

The disposition of ashes and garbage was quite a problem, until the present disposal of same was instituted. The garbage was taken by parties who resided on the vacant lots or rocks above Fifty-ninth Street on the west and Forty-second Street



on the east side and from there to Harlem. Many of them kept hogs which roamed on the streets most everywhere. The ashes being used to fill in sunken lots, the householders paid to remove same daily. Another unique combination was connected with this same industry, which you would come across in every part of the city, even on Second and Fifth Avenues. This was a cart of a rather ramshackle condition with a decrepid old woman walking inside of the square bars in front with a strap over her shoulders and two dogs hitched with traces to the axle, one on each side. The traces were old pieces of rope generally. The woman was slovenly dressed, barefooted in summer, a really repulsive outfit. This aggregation would pull up to the curb, the dogs would sit down on their haunches to rest, while the woman with a hook would delve to the bottom of all the cans on the sidewalk and throw what she wanted in the cart. When loaded, they would start for home in some squalid quarters on the rocks or vacant lots. These people were termed squatters. Woe be to any person that came near the cart in the owner's absence, as the dogs were faithful to their trust.

The principal military organizations in New York in the late fifties, were the Seventh regiment, Colonel Abram Duryea, later commanded by Colonel Marshall Lefferts, the Seventy-first regiment, Colonel Vosburg, organized originally as native Americans, the Eighth Washington Grays, Colonel Varian, the Ninth Regiment, Colonel Green later by Colonel James Fiske, the Sixty-ninth Regiment, mostly those of Irish birth or parents, Colonel Michael Corcoran, the Fifty-fifth Regiment or Guard Lafayette were all Frenchmen. The Seventy-ninth were all Scotchmen and on parade wore kilts. The Washington Gray Troop composed largely of butchers with their gray horses was a good organization. The two separate companies were the City and Light Guards. The latter merged into the Seventy-first Regiment, Company A. Subsequently the Fifth Regiment was organized, composed largely of Germans, and commanded by Colonel Charles Spencer, a prominent lawyer and





politician, also the twelfth. The Twenty-second Regiment was organized about the same time, which was rather rivals to the seventh. It was organized first among the insurance and bank men of Wall Street.



## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

**A**S this work is general in describing, I must not forget the churches, so will enumerate a few as I remember them at that period, and it is characteristic that most of the Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches are at this time at the same place as they were half a century ago. All the other denominations were migrators, many of them moving three or four times during this period. The principal Episcopal churches were Trinity on Broadway, head of Wall Street, Dr. Berrian being the rector. The steeple of this church was largely visited by sight-seers, it being the highest point in the city. The sexton charged one shilling, \$1.12½ for the privilege. It was a favorite spot for newly-married couples, and there were thousands of names cut in the woodwork in the top of the spire and in places hard to get at, so that they would never be obliterated. St. Paul's on Broadway between Fulton and Vesey Streets, St. George's on Beekman Street corner of Cliff. About 1860 St. George's removed to Sixteenth Street corner of Livingston Place opposite Stuyvesant Park. Dr. Stephen Tyng was the rector. St. John's, Varick Street opposite St. John's Park. The park is now a freight depot for the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad. St. Stephen's, corner of Broome and Christy Streets, St. Thomas', northwest corner of Broadway and Houston, burned down about 1857. This church is now corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifty-third Street. Fire seems to have followed it as the church here was burned in 1907. A temporary one is now occupied, a new one being in course of erection on the same site. St. Mark's on the Bowery, Tenth Street and Second Avenue, Dr. Vinton rector for many years, being succeeded by Dr. Rylance. The graveyard of this church contains the remains of Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch Governor of New York, and the church has a reverence for the writer as his great-great-great-great-great-grandmother, Margrietje



Cozine, was married there in 1662 by the Reverend Henry Solgus, who was pastor at that time, it being the first marriage to take place in the church after its erection. The graveyard which surrounds the edifice came into unpleasant notoriety some thirty-eight years ago by having the body of Alexander T. Stewart, which had been interred there, stolen. It was a long time before it was believed to have been recovered and it is presumed that it is now buried in the crypt under the cathedral at Garden City, Long Island, which church was erected by Mrs. Stewart as a memorial to her husband in 1877. Among the many others were St. Luke's, Hudson Street near Carmine; Wainwright Memorial, Waverly Place corner of Amos Street, now West Tenth Street; Church of the Annunciation, Dr. Samuel Seabury, rector, south side of Fourteenth Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Salvation Army building is now on the site. Church of the Holy Communion, corner of Sixth Avenue and Twentieth Street, Dr. Muhlenberg, rector; Calvary, corner of Fourth Avenue and Twenty-first Street, Dr. Hawks, rector; Grace, Broadway and Tenth Street, Dr. Huntington, rector; St. Bartholomew's, on Lafayette Place near Fourth Street, Reverend Dr. George Cook, rector. This church has since removed to Forty-fourth Street and Madison Avenue. Church of the Ascension, Fifth Avenue corner of Tenth Street; Church of the Heavenly Rest, Forty-fifth Street and Fifth Avenue; St. Peter's, Twentieth Street near Ninth Avenue; St. Ann's, Seventeenth Street near Broadway, subsequently became church for deaf mutes, Dr. Gallaudet being rector. Trinity Chapel, Twenty-sixth Street near Broadway, Dr. Francis Vinton being rector; Church of the Holy Apostle, Ninth Avenue and Twenty-eighth Street; Christ's Church, Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street. There was also an Episcopal Church in Leonard Street in 1855, corner of Church Street, on south side of street. I don't remember its name. Church of the Incarnation, Madison Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street, and Church of the Transfiguration, No. 1 East Twenty-eighth Street, Dr. Houghton, rector. Also St. James' now at Seventy-third Street and Madison Avenue. Reverend Dr. Ho-





ratio Potter, D. D., was the Episcopal Bishop of the southern New York Diocese in 1855. He was succeeded by Bishop Wainwright.

Among the Roman Catholic Churches were St. Peter's on Barclay, corner of Church Street; St. Andrew's, Duane near Chatham; St. Alphonsus's, South Fifth Avenue and Canal; St. Anthony's, Sullivan and Thompson near Prince Street. The old cathedral was in Mott Street, corner of Prince. Third Street Church at First Avenue; Second Avenue Church, corner of Second Street; French Church, Twenty-third Street near Sixth Avenue; St. Joseph's Church, Sixth Avenue West Washington Place; St. Francis Xavier, Sixteenth Street and Sixth Avenue; St. Bernard's West Fourteenth Street and Sixth Avenue; St. Ann's, Twelfth Street, Rt. Reverend John Hughes was the Archbishop.

Among the Presbyterian Churches was the Brick Church on Park Row, Beekman and Nassau Streets, which was surrounded by a graveyard. This was torn down and the church moved to Fifth Avenue and Thirty-seventh Street. The site of the old church was occupied by the Times and World Building. Fifth Avenue Presbyterian, Fifth Avenue and Twelfth Street is still there. Dr. Alexander's, University Place and Tenth Street, they removed to Fifty-fifth Street and Fifth Avenue. Spring Street Presbyterian was on Spring Street near Varick. Dr. Crosby's Church was corner of Fourth Avenue and Twenty-second Street, now located corner of Broadway and 114th Street, west side.

The Methodists had the old John Street Church. Also the Bedford Street. St. Paul's, corner of Fourth Avenue and Twenty-second Street, another on Second Avenue and Fourteenth Street and one in Seventeenth Street near First Avenue. The Washington Square Methodist was on Fourth Street Washington Square. There was another Methodist Church in Seventh Avenue near Fourteenth Street.

Among the Congregational Dutch Churches there was one on Fulton Street corner of William. Dr. Cheever's Church was on Fifteenth Street Union Square. Tiffany Building is



now on the site. The Tabernacle (Dr. Chapin) was on Broadway above Spring Street, east side. It removed to Sixth Avenue, corner of Thirty-fourth Street. Hope Chapel was on Broadway opposite Waverly Place. St. Matthew's, northeast corner of Broome and Elizabeth Streets was the only Lutheran Church in New York.

The principal Baptist Church was on Second Avenue and Tenth Street. There was another in Broome Street called the First Baptist, Dr. Thomas Anderson was the rector. The latter removed to Thirty-ninth Street and Park Avenue. All Souls Unitarian Church, Dr. Osgood, was the corner of Fourth Avenue and Twentieth Street, called the Beefsteak Church, the color and way the bricks were laid of which it was built resembled a beefsteak. The Quakers had their two meeting houses, one on Sixteenth Street, corner of Livingston Place, opposite Stuyvesant Park, and the other on Twentieth Street near Third Avenue. In Brooklyn, Holy Trinity, Dr. Littlejohn, rector, was on Clinton Street near Montague. Grace Church was on Grace Court, foot of Remsen Street. St. Ann's was on Washington Street corner of Sand Street, removed to Clinton and Livingston; St. Peter's on State Street near Nevins; St. John's corner of Johnson and Washington; St. Luke's on Clinton Avenue, Dr. Diller, rector, who was lost in the Seawanika disaster. These were all Episcopal Churches. Plymouth Church was in Cranberry Street near Henry. Henry Ward Beecher was the preacher. Church of the Pilgrims, corner of Henry and Remsen Streets. Reverend R. S. Stors was the pastor. Both of these were congregational. The Old Dutch Church was corner of Court and Jerolemon Streets. The Sands Street Methodist was on Sand Street just off Fulton Street, and ran through to High Street. The clergyman here was Reverend Charles Fletcher. Dr. Farley's Unitarian Church was on Monroe Place, near Pierpont Street. St. James' Roman Catholic Church was on Jay near Concord Street, Reverend Dr. McCloskey, rector. St. Mary's of Star of the Sea was in Court Street below First Place. St. Charles Boromeo was in Sydney Place corner of Livingston Street.



Father Pease was the rector. There was a Methodist Church corner of Johnson Street and Lawrence called the Eel Pot.

There were many more that I can locate, such as one corner of Jerolomon and Clinton, Amity Street near Henry, Clark Street corner of Monroe Place, but do not remember their pursuation.

Dr. Cuyler's was on Lafayette Avenue near Hanson Place. Reverend DeWitt Talmage's Tabernacle was built at a later date on State Street corner of Nevins, destroyed by fire.

The principal libraries were the Astor in Lafayette Place, Society Library, University Place and Thirteenth Street, Apprentices' Library, Mechanics Hall, Broadway and Broome Street, Mercantile Library, incorporated in 1823, in Clinton Hall, Astor Place, of which the author was a member in 1855, New York Historical Society Library, Second Avenue and Tenth Street.





## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

**A**T this part of my narrative I must not forget to mention the names of those that were considered millionaires fifty-five to sixty years ago in New York. As near as I can remember they come about the two dozen limit, although there were many that were close to it and really counted as such. William B. Astor, Lafayette Place, headed the original list. Then came Stephen Whitney, 7 Bowling Green, William H. Aspinwall, Tenth Street and University Place, James Lenox, 53 Fifth Avenue, Peter Lorillard, George Law, 243 Fifth Avenue, A. T. Stewart, DePau Row, Bleeker Street, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mercer Street corner of Washington Place, Peter Cooper, Lexington Avenue and Twenty-first Street, Peter Goelet, Broadway and Nineteenth Street, Robert Goelet, Seventeenth Street and Broadway, Moses Taylor, Fifth Avenue and Seventeenth Street, Henry Parish, Broadway and Seventeenth Street, Henry Brevoort, Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street, Jonathan Thorne, 3 Washington Square, W. B. Crosby, Rutgers Place, James Gordon Bennett, Paul Spofford, John D. Wolfe, Mr. Hendricks, Gardiner Howland, Peter Harmony, Frederick Bronson, Peter Schermerhorn, 61 University Place, S. Lispenard, John Haggerty, 26 Bond Street. There were quite a number near or quite millionaires, viz., Hamilton Fish, Second Avenue corner of Seventeenth Street, Robert B. Minturn, Stephen B. Munn, Sam Willets, Lafayette Place, Anson G. Phelps, Rutherford Stuyvesant, Second Avenue and Fifteenth Street, Gourveneur Morris, James Brown, A. C. Kingsland, W. P. Furness, 11 Bond Street, William E. Dodge, Richard K. Haight, Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street, Don Alonzo Cushman, Twentieth Street and Ninth Avenue, P. T. Barnum, Eugene Kettletas, 37 St. Marks Place, John Q. Jones, John Harbeck, Jonathan Sturges, C. V. S. Roosevelt, Royal Phelps, William Niblo, Dr. Townsend, G. S. Burnham, Cyrus W. Field, Lo-



renzo Delmonico, Philip Hone, James Beekman, Jacob Cram, William E. Dodge, Thirty-seventh Street and Madison Avenue, William Rhinelander, 14 Washington Square, James Kernochan, 145 Second Avenue, R. L. Stuart, A. A. Low, Oliver H. Jones, David Dows, W. B. Astor, Jr., John Jacob Astor, Marshall O. Roberts, George Opdyke, Daniel Drew, Edwin Mathews, Francis Skiddy, James Meinell, August Belmont, Mr. Samson.

The reader most likely by this time may have had a surfeit of old times and is ruminating to himself how could the author have written so many memories without having documents handy for reference. Also his knowledge of general events of many kinds may seem astonishing. This condition I must be allowed to explain, viz: As a boy at school I was always reading the papers of the day, which appeared in many cases by the week, and I remembered what I read. As a young man I continued same but got the papers daily instead of weekly. I was fond of all athletic sports and was a member of a gymnasium, Burnam's in Brooklyn, often visiting Ottignon's in Crosby Street and Wood's in Twenty-eighth Street near Fifth Avenue, thus watching the doings in the art of self-defense, without associating in any way in that strata of society, residing alone in a boarding house hall room, \$3.50 per week, with meals thrown in, gave me large opportunities to visit theatres, and without being egotistical, would say I was a great observer of life in every way. My knowledge of horse events was bred in me. That accounts for my being posted somewhat in horse history, and for some parts to get many dates to be accurate consulted my scrap book. I would now call your attention to view the present period and make your own comparisons. The Goddess of Liberty with torch in her hand has for some years been standing on Bedloe's Island, very close to the site of Albert W. Hicks' the Pirates Hanging. From her high pedestal she looks down at the Battery this year of our Lord 1914, and if life existed in that inanimate bronze figure, would exclaim, "Can this be the Battery of old times?" although to her gaze on Castle Williams, which was erected by Colonel



Williams, an officer in the army, that still retains its ancient appearance. The Custom House, just completed, faces Bowling Green. On the east is the new Produce Exchange. On the west facing the Battery Park the Field Building, the Bowling Green Building being next door on Broadway. The Standard Oil Building is on the east just above Beaver Street.

Observe the four bridges to Brooklyn, the elevated railroad, subways, and electric tramways. Go to the east and go to the west and the same vision meets your eye. Immense buildings of commerce, banks, trust companies, insurance and law offices exist. Follow the line of Broadway for twelve miles clear to the Harlem River, where ten bridges cross and you will note grand apartment houses, hotels, churches and residences nearly the whole length, some hotels having one thousand rooms and apartment houses, four hundred apartments under one roof, and on the east side take Madison Avenue across the river at 138th Street, and up in the Borough of the Bronx to West Farms. Immense structures meet your eye on Third and Westchester Avenues. There are too many to enumerate, so I ask the reader, observe for yourself and draw your own deduction of the buried past and the living present.

I will now draw my reminiscences to a close with the hope that my book may not be too unfavorably criticised because I may have omitted to put in matter which others may remember, I having only inserted my own memories, and in doing so have been forced to freely use the pronoun "I" to make my meaning plain to the everyday reader, for which liberty it is hoped indulgence will be granted. During the past few years in the daily papers have appeared inquiries relative to events of years ago. This work may come in good to determine and explain many disputed questions.

Trusting that they have been enjoyed by the reader as much as it has pleased me in writing them, I can now say adieu.





## APPENDIX A

### SEVERAL WRITINGS FROM THE OLD EPOCH

#### "MERMAN" "MERMAID" "MEMOIRS"

**A**FTER closing up the foregoing part of this work which largely refers to affairs in New York and Brooklyn, with allusion in some cases to Long Island matters, by mere chance I found a rare volume in my library, which had been overlooked for many years, containing events which happened on Long Island close to four score years past, so I have deemed it advisable to insert this discovery as an appendix to this production, being perfectly sanguine that it will be of unusual interest to many residents of the new County of Nassau, as well as to those of the old County of Suffolk.

In the years 1839 to 1840 several New York gentlemen who were fond of shooting and fishing would make a sporting pilgrimage down on the south shore of Long Island to a place called "Scio." This was Jim Smith's old hostelry situated on the main turnpike, Brooklyn to Babylon, being on the north-west corner of the road which led to Jerusalem from \*Jerusalem South (now Seaford). This hotel was quite famous as a stopping place for those driving out from New York and Brooklyn, as also for those who arrived by the railroad. At this period the Long Island Railroad did not extend any further east than Hicksville, so stages were taken at this place for Jerusalem South, South Oyster Bay and Babylon. These city sportsmen would generally drive down, reaching their destination about sunset, being in good time for supper, which was a royal feast indeed. After a bracer of gin and tansy, a beverage concocted in those days, they would sit down around the festive board and partake of a nice broiled yellow leg snipe or

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\*Subsequently Atlanticville.



a plover, with trout out of Smith's pond, which was just west of the house, and then last but not least, fried and stewed eels fresh out of the Bay, with home made wheat and rye bread and butter, as an accompaniment. Could you wish for anything more delectable? I would here observe that in my youthful days I never saw wheat bread furnished at a meal, except in the home of a land owner or person in fairly good circumstances. The poor farmer who leased the land and tilled it on shares with the owner and the Bayman who thrived upon what he could procure from out of the Bay usually had rye bread or corn meal bread upon his table. After satisfying their appetite, a whale oil lamp was provided to give them light and they would retire for the night, lying in the center of a thick feather bed, to be awakened about 2 A. M. to get down to the creek to take a skiff across the Bay or a sail boat to Fire Island, so as to be there at break of day, when the snipe, ducks and geese would begin to fly, or they would drive down to Babylon, a distance of about eight miles, and take a skiff and cross the Bay at that point for Fire Island, they being accompanied by several Baymen from Verity's Creek (now in Seaford) who had been engaged before hand by them to act as guides. These Baymen were Uncle John Verity, Obadiah Verity, John Alibi and (Venus) Parmenus Raynor and Raynor Rock. The latter had constructed a hut on Fire Island not far from the *old* light-house, which was used by his crew for living purposes when operating their seine to procure fish to send to Fulton Market, or as a refuge in the winter season when a vessel got ashore on Jones's Beach for they then would remain out there two or three weeks at a time, getting what they could gather from off the wreck. John Alibi used his old flint lock gun at this time and when he brought it to his shoulder to fire at a flock of birds you may be sure not a shot was wasted. A swath would be visible as if a scythe had plowed through the aperture.

Among the New York contingent referred to in the preceding lines was a \*Mr. J. Cypress, Jr., who was a writer of

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\*(William P. Hawes).



articles on sporting matters for a monthly periodical edited in New York by \*\*J. S. Skinner, called *The American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine*. When on these trips the evenings were passed all hands sitting or lying around the fire in the middle of the hut by stories being told by one or the other of the city bred men, for the edification of the rural members of the household, as the Baymen always took their guests to their hut to reside while on the expedition, and Mr. Cypress would put these stories in good shape and then send them in to the magazine in New York. Oliver Paul, a Quaker (Hick-site) and Ned Locus, whose uncle was porter of the Pearl Street Bank (so he says) belonged to this aggregation, as also Daniel ———, a native and Peter Probasco were accessions. All good story tellers, each one taking his turn. One of the letters appear in Volume Eleven, which was issued in May, 1840, headed "A Week at the Fire Islands on Long Island," by J. Cypress, Jr.

The following is copied from this letter, which was on "Mermans" and "Mermaids."

"ASLEEP! Venus!"—cried Ned,—“it would be difficult for any sensible person to fall asleep during a recital of such original and thrilling interest. The Argonautic expedition, the perilous navigation of Eneas, the bold adventure of the New England pilgrims”—

"Have my doubts," snorted Peter, interrupting Ned's laudation, in a voice not so articulate but that the utterance might have been acknowledged for the profound expression of the sentiments of a gentleman in the land of dreams. Peter's drowsiness had finally prevailed not only over his sense of hearing, but also even over his sense of imbibition. I picked up his cannikin, and solemnly shook my own head in place of his, as he pronounced the oracular judgment. "Have my doubts, mostly, mister, I say," he grumbled again, and then the veteran gray battalion that stood marshalled upon his chin, erect, and John of Gaunt like, or rather like the ragged columns of the

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\*\*Subsequently by Wm. T. Porter.





Giant's Causeway, bristled up to meet the descent of his overhanging, ultra-Wellington nose. There was a noise as of a muttered voice of trumpets,—and then it gradually died away, and there was a deep, deep peace. To use Peter's own classical language, he was "shut up."

"Asleep? Not a man, Venus," said Oliver Paul. "If thee tell us such yarns as that, we wont go to sleep all night. But thee must not ask us to believe them."

"Well, every man must believe for himself," replied Venus, "I expect. I admit it's likely the captin must have stretched a leetle about the length o' time he was out, I should say. But it's easy to make a mistake about the number of days in them latitudes, you know; 'cause I've heerd say the sun shines there several days together on a stretch, sometimes, without goen down none; and then agin it's as dark as pitch for a hull month, and no moon nother. Some people reckons the sun can't rise there, no how, winter mornens, on account it's bein' so darn'd cold. How is it about that, Mr. Cypress? You're college larnt, I expect."

"It's a long answer to that question, Venus. Since Captain Symmes returned from his penetration into the north pole, there has been a vast addition to our stores of knowledge of the character and habits of the sun. Professor Saltonstall contends, and proves, to my satisfaction, at the least, that the god of day is a living animal, the Behemoth of the Scriptures. But I'll tell you all about that some other, better opportunity;—the next time we're stooling snipe together, in Pine Creek. Let's have another story, now. Zoph, can't you get up something? What was that Venus said about mermaids? Were there ever any mermaids about here?"

"Can't say—can't say," answered Zoph, with a hesitating, inquiring sort of deliberation: "Can't say, for my part; but I've heerd folks tell there *used to be* lots on 'em."

"Sarten, sarten, no doubt;" continued Daniel, with better confidence. "I know, that in th' time o' my gr't gr'ndf'th'r they used to be pr'tty considerabl' plenty. Th' old man had a



smart tussel with a he merm'd—a merman, I sh'd say—one day."

"Let's have that, Dannel;" cried two or three voices at once.

"Let's have a drink, first;" interposed Dan's co-partner in the eel trade,—who probably knew the necessity of soaking the story—at the same time uncorking the jug. "Here, Dannel, hand the tumbler over to Mr. Paul."

"Don't drink—don't drink, boys;" advised the virtuous Oliver, as usual. "Well, if you will,"—resting the jug upon his knee with his right hand, and bringing its avenue of discharge into no merely suspicious juxta-position to the tumbler in his left—"if you will, you will. *Some pork will boil that way.*"

"It's goen to be a dry story, I expect, Mr. Paul. My throat feels 'mazen dusty a'ready."

A general drought prevailed, and the watering-pot performed its interesting and refreshing functions.

At last, the ground being put in order, Dan prepared to sow the crop. So he hummed and hawed, and threw out his quid, and drew his sleeve across his chin, and began his work after this wise—Dan, it will be perceived, is a special economist of vowels, and uses no more words than are precisely necessary to "express his sentiments."

"Why, y' see, th' old man was one o' th' first settlers that come down from M'sschus'tts, and he tuk a small farm on shears down to Fort-neck, and he'd everything fix'd accorden. The most his time, hows'm'ver, he spent in the bay, clammen and sich like. He was putty tol'r'bl' smart with a gun, too, and he was the first man that made wooden stools for ducks. So he was out bright and arely one morn'n—he'd laid out all night, likely—and he'd his stool sot out on th' n'r-east side o' a hasseck off Wanza's Flat,—(the place tuk its name from gr't gr'ndf'th'r,)—th' wind bein' from th' so'-west princip'ly; and he lay in his skiff in th's hasseck, putty well hid for't was in th' fall of th' year, and the sedge was smart and high. Well, jest arter day'd fairly broke, and the faawl begun to stir, he reckoned he heer'd a kind o' splashen in the water, like geese pick'n





and wash'n themselves. So he peeked through the grass, softly, to see where the flock was; but, 'stead o' geese, he see a queer looken old feller waden 'long on the edge o' th' flat, jest by th' channel, benden low down, with a bow and arr in his hands, all fixed, ready to shoot, and his eye upon gr't gr'ndf'th'r's stool. 'That feller thinks my stool's faawl,' says the old man to himself, softly, 'cause he 'xpected the fell'r was an Ingen, and there wa'n't no tellen whether he was friendly or not, in them times. So he sot still and watched. The bow and arr kept goen on, and to rights it stopped. Then the feller what had it, ris up and pulled string, and let slip. Slap went the arr, strut into one o' gr't Gr'ndf'th'r's broadbills, and stuck fast, shaken. The old man sniggled as he see th' other feller pull, and then jump and splash thro' th' water to pick up his game, but he said nothen. Well, the merm'n—as it turned out to be—got to th' stool, and he seemed most won'rf'll s'prized th' birds didn't get up and fly, and then he tuk up the br'db'll, and pulled out his arr, and turned the stool ov'r and ov'r, and smelt it, and grinned, and seemed quite uneasy to make out what 'twas. Then he tuk up 'nother one, and he turned 'em putty much all ov'r, and tore their anchors loose.

"Gr't gr'ndf'th'r wa'n't a bit skeered, and he didn't like this much, but he didn't want to git into a passion with an Ingen, for they're full o' fight, and he loved peace: and besides he didn't want to take no dis'advantage on 'im, and he'd two guns loaded in th' skiff, and th' other fellor hadn't only a bow and arr, and the old man hoped he'd clear out soon. It wa'n't to be, hows'mver, that the old man shouldn't get int' a scrape; for what's the feller with the bow and arr do, arter consideren and smellen a smart and long spell, but pick up the whole stool—every one on 'em—and sling 'em ov'r's shoulder, and begin to make tracks! Gr't gr'ndf'th'r couldn't stand that 'ere. So he sung out to him, putty loud and sharp, to lay down them stools; and he shoved the skiff out the hasseck, and then he see plain enough it was a merm'n. Then the old man was a leetle started, I expect. Hows'mver, he shoved right up to him, and got his old muskets ready. Well, the merm'n turned round,





and sich another looken mortal man gr't gr'ndf'th'r said he never did see. He'd big bushy hair all ov'r 'im, and big whiskers, and his eyes was green and small's a mushrats, and where the flesh was he was ruther scaly-like. He hadn't stitch clothes ont' 'm, but the water was up to's waist, and kivered 'im up so that gr't gr'ndf'th'r couldn't see the biggest part on 'im. Soon's the old man got done jawen, the merm'n he begun to talk out the darndest talk you ever heerd. I disremember 'xactly, but I b'lieve 'twas something like 'norgus porgus carry-Yorkus,' and all sich stuff. Ephr'm Salem, the schoolmaster, used to reckon 'twas Lating, and meant somethin' 'bout takin' load o' p' porgees down to York other some said 'twas Dutch: but I can't say. Well, the old man let him talk his talk out, and then he tuk his turn. Says the old man, says he, 'it ant respect'ble, 'tant honest, mister merm'n, to hook other people's property. Them's my stool,' says he. 'Ye lie,' says the merm'n,—speakin' so gr't gr'ndf'th'r could hear 'im plain enough when he cum to the pint,—'ye lie,' says he, 'I jest now shot 'em.'

"'Shot 'em, you b——,' says the old man, gittin mad: 'shot 'em? them's wooden stools what I made myself, and anchored 'em here las night.'

"'That's 'nother,' says the merm'n; 'ye blackguard, they're only dead ducks spetrerfried and turned into white oak. I'm seen 'em here, and knowed they was cotched fast into the eel grass, a smart and long while: good mornen, my old cock, I must be goen.'

"'Lay them stool down,' says gr't gr'ndf'th'r, 'lay them stool down, or, by golly, I'll put a charge o' shot into ye.'

"'Shoot away, my man,' says the merm'n, sneerin like, and he turns off to clear out. So, the old man sein his stool walked off in that 'ere way, cotched up one o' his guns, and, by jings, he let slip right into the merm'n's back, and marked him from his shoulders down, thick as mustard-seed, with about three ounces of No. 3,—what the old man put in for brant the night afore. The old thief was putty well riddled, I expect. He jumped up out th' water 'bout a yard high,



and squealed out's if he was killed. But he wa'n't tho', for arter rubbin his back a leetle while, he turned round, and says he, 'now, I s'pose you think you've done it, don't you?' quite sharp and saucy: 'I wanted a little lead into me for ballast; what's the costs, squire?'

"'Lay down them 'ere stool,' says the old man, 'lay down them 'ere stool.' 'I won't,' says the merm'n. 'If ye don't,' says gr't gr'ndf'th'r, 'I'll give ye t'other gun, and that's loaded with double B; may be ye won't like that quite so well, perhaps.'

"'Fire away and be d—d,' says the merm'n, and the old man giv' it to him, sure enough. This time he planted it right int' his face and eyes, and the blood run out all white like milk. The merm'n hollored, and yawked, and swore, and rubbed, and he let the stool drop, and he seemed to be putty much blinded and done up, and gr't gr'ndf'th'r thought he was spoke for. Hows'm'ver he thought it was best to load up and be ready in case o' the merm'n's gittin well, and comin at 'im 'gen. But just as he tuk up his horn to prime, the merm'n div and vanished. 'What's the how, now?' says gr't gr'ndf'th'r, and he got up onto the gunnels o' the boat, to watch for squalls; and he stood there teteren on a larboard and starboard straddle, looken out putty sharp, for he reckoned there was somethin comin. There wa'n't no mistake 'bout that, for t'rights the old man felt the skiff shaken under 'im, and he see right off that the merm'n was down below, tryen t'upset 'im and git 'im int' the water. That ruther started the old man, for he knowed if he once got int' th' water, he'd stand no kind o' chance with a merm'n, which is jest the same as an otter, 'xcept the sense, you know. So he jumped down to his oars, to pull for the hassck. That wouldn't answer much, tho', for th' oars hadn't touched water 'fore the merm'n broke 'em smack off, and the old man had to pull the sprit out the sail, and take to shoven. The moment he struck bottom, he heerd a kind o' grunten laugh under th' skiff, and somebody drew the sprit down, deep int' th' mud, so that th' old man couldn't pull it out; at th' same time th' merm'n tilted th' skiff over smart and far, so that her





keel was 'most out o' water, and th' old man was taken strut off both's feet, and highsted up int' th' air, high and dry, holden onto the eend o' the sprit; and the skiff shot away, and left 'im, twenty yards off, or twenty-five I sh'd say, mostly. The sprit was putty stiff, I expect, tho' it bent smartly; but gr't gr'ndf'th'r hung on't, like death to a dead nigger, his feet bein 'bout three foot from the water's edge when he held up his knees."

"Dan," said I (taking advantage of a moment's pause, during which he experienced imbibition), "was the old gentleman on your father's or your mother's side?"

"Have my doubts he don't know nuther," again muttered the sleeping sceptic, whose tympanum readily acknowledged the interruption of a voice foreign to the story,—“but his father was a smart man, and I knowed him.”

*“Gracius anhelata! Good night, Peter.”*

“Mr. Cypress,” said Dan, with a face full of sincere anxiety, “would I tell *you* anything I did not believe?”

“No, Dan, never; no, no; go on, go on. I only asked for information.”

“Well, where was I?—Yes—yes—Well, there th' old man hung ont' th' top th' sprit, not taken much comfort, I sh'd say. Then, up, by course, pops the merm'n, and begins to make all kinds o' fun th' old man, and gives 'im all sorts o' saace, whilst he stood in the water clost by th' sprit, washen off the blood and pick'n the shots out his face. Gr't gr'ndf'th'r wouldn't answ'r 'im back, tho', 'cause he knowed it wa'n't no use, but he kept wishen some boat would come along and give 'im a hand, and he 'xpected there must be somebody or 'nother out that day. Meantime, tho', he tho't 'twas best to let th' merm'n see he wa'n't 'fraid on 'im none, so he tuk out his tinder-box and pipe, and struck a light and set up smoken, quite at ease. Well, there he hung and smoked, putty much all of three hours, till he got consid'r'ble tired, I sh'd say, and the merm'n looked's good's new, only 'xcepten the holes in's face, which was all thick together like th' holes in th' black banks, where the fidders come out on. 'Wont you walk down, sir?' says the





merm'n, arter a while, to gr't gr'ndf'th'r, quite p'lite; 'I sh'd be quite happy to shake hands wi' ye, and make it up.'

"Gr't gr'ndf'th'r wouldn't say a word.

"'Wont ye answer, d—n ye?' says the cunnen devil, gritt'n's teeth; and he walks up to th' sprit, and lays hold, and shakes it hard, jist as ye'd shake a young pear tree. 'Drop off, drop off,' says he, shaken 'er all his might.

"Then th' old man made up his mind he'd got to come; so he watches 'is chance, and gives a spring, and jumps, so as to strike th' merm'n's shoulder, and from that he jumps agin, a good long stretch, tow'rds the hassck, where the water was shallerer.

"The merm'n was arter 'im strut, and cotched 'im up in no time, and then they clinched. That 'ere fight I sh'd like to seen, may be I don't think. It was hip and thigh, and toss up for the best, for putty much an hour 'bouts; sometimes the merm'n bein' ahead, and sometimes gr't gr'ndf'th'r, dependen mostly on th' depth th' water; for when th' old man could keep's ground in shaller water, he could lick the merm'n to thunder; but the merm'n was leetle the activest in deep water. Well, it couldn't be 'xpected but what they sh'd both get pr'tty smart and tired, and I reckon they was both willen to 'cknowledge beat. Th' old man was jist goen to, when the merm'n sings out, 'Mister, let's stop and rest.'

"'Done,' says gr't gr'ndf'th'r, glad enough; and they stoped short, and went to th' hassck, and sot down cn th' sedge grass, both breathen like a porpus.

"Arter they'd sot there a little while, and got breath, th' old man sung out he was ready; but the merm'n said he wa'n't, and he reck'n'd he felt putty smart and bad. So th' old man thought 'twould be a good time to go arter's skiff. 'You oughtn't t've shoved my boat away, any how,' says he; 'how shall I get back t'hum t'-night?'

"'That's true,' says the merm'n, quite reason'bl'; 'if y'll promise to come right back, and finish this 'ere fight, I'll let ye go and swim arter it.'

"'I will,' says th' old man, 'Honor bright;' and off he



s'wum. When he got off 'bout two rod, he looked back at the merm'n, and he thought he seemed to be 'mazen pale and sick. 'Make haste back,' sings out the merm'n. 'Ay, ay,' says th' old man, and he struck away.

"The tide had drifted th' skiff a smart ways off, and she lay putty much down t' th' beach, on a bar; and 'twas quite a spell 'fore the old man could get back to the hassck. But when he arriv' there wa'n't a hair of a merm'n to b' seen, only in the place where he'd sot there was a big heap o' white jelly, like a stingen quarll. Gr't gr'ndf'th'r kicked it over w'his foot, and it made a thin squeak, like a swaller high up overhead, and he reckoned it giv' 'im a kind o' lect'ral shock. So he sot to work and picked up his stools, which was scattered putty much all over the bay, and he cleared out t'hum. That's the last he seen o' that merm'n."

"Surely, surely. Walloped him into nothen, I expect;" said Venus. "I give in arter that, Dannel."

"Have my doubts, agen;" sung out Peter, waking up from the straw, where his universally incredulous judgment had been for some time past taking unquiet and sonorous repose. "Have my doubts, mister, I say."

"You're drunk, old vulture-nose;" cried Ned, authoritatively. "Shut up; I'm satisfied that the story is true. What object could the old man have had in telling a lie? Besides, everybody knows that mermaids were plenty here once. Wasn't Jerry Smith's wife a mermaid? Didn't I see one myself, once, in Brick-house brook, when I was troutin'?"

"Likely, likely;" quoth Oliver. "Tell us about that, Eddy. When was it? I never heard thee mention it before."

"Yes, you have, Oliver, fifty times: but, as it is a short story, and I should like to resolve Peter's doubts, for once, I'll tell it again.—Don't interrupt me now.—It was one April morning, in that year when you and I had the great flight of geese, Raynor. I went up through the woods, and struck into the brook about two miles above the turnpike, and started to wade it down to the road. You know how wild the country is there, and how wantonly the brook runs, bending, and wind-





ing, and coquetting with the wintergreen and cranberry vines that fringe its banks; how it is constantly changing its depth, and strength, and color, sometimes dashing on, in a narrow current not more than three or four feet in width, and curling darkly and swiftly around the old stumps that are rotting by its edges, and then, at a little distance off, spreading free, and flowing smooth, to the breadth of twenty yards; while all the way it is overarched, and in some places nearly hidden by the intertwined hazel, and alders, and scrub oaks. It is just the stream that I should think would captivate a water nymph's fancy; it is so solitary, and quiet, and romantic. You hear no noise while you are fishing, save of your own splashing footsteps, or the brushed-by, crackling bushes,—scarcely even the rushing of the wind,—so deep and thick is the envelopment of the woods; and in wading half a mile, and basketing thirty fish, you might think you was alone in the world, if you did not now and then startle a thirsty fawn, or a brooding wood-duck. Well, I was coming down through a broad, shallow, beautifully gravelled bottom, where the water was not more than half-way up to my knees, and was just beginning to take more stealthy steps, so as to make the least possible noise (for I was approaching a favorite hole), when suddenly I heard what seemed to be the voice of a young girl of fifteen or sixteen burst out a-singing ahead of me, just around the next bend of the brook.

“I was half frightened to death, for I thought it must be some poor mad creature that had escaped from her confinement; and in fact I had heard that Rosina—what's her name? I forget—had been rather flighty ever since young Jones left off paying attentions to her. However, there was no backing out for me, now; *nulla vestigia retrorsum*, in the case of a woman, Cypress. I was in the scrape: *revocare gradum* was out of the question. So I went ahead softly, and when I got to the bend, I put my left eye around the bushes, and looked. By all the little fishes, it was a lovely sight! She was sitting upon a hemlock log that had fallen across the brook, with her naked feet and legs hanging into the water. There she sat,





paddling, and splashing, and combing her long, beautiful, floating hair, and singing. I was entranced, petrified. She would sing a little ballad, and then she'd stop and wring her hands, and cry. Then she'd laugh and flirt about her long hair. Then again she would look sorrowful, and sigh as though her heart would break, and sing her song over again. Presently, she bent down to the stream, and began to talk earnestly to somebody. I leaned forward to take a look at the stranger, and to whom do you think she was talking? It was a trout, a brook trout, an old fellow that I have no doubt would have weighed full eight pounds. He was floating on the top of the water, and dimpling, and springing up about her, as though he, too, felt and acknowledged the heavenly influence of her beauty. She bent her long fingers, and tickled him upon his back, and under his side, and he absolutely jumped through her hands, backwards and forwards, as if in a delirium of frolic. (It was by her hands that I knew she was a mermaid. They were bluy, and webbed, though not much more than a black-breasted plover's feet. There was nothing positively ichtyal in their formation). After a while she commenced singing again. This was a new tune, and most exquisitely sweet. I took out my pencil, and wrote down the words of the song, on a blank leaf for memoranda, in my fishing book. Shall I repeat them?"

"Do it," we all cried out with earnestness.

"I'll try," said Ned, sighing. "I wish I could sing them. They ran somewhat in this way:—

'Down in the deep,  
Dark holes I keep,  
And there, in the noontide, I float and sleep;  
By the hemlock log,  
And the springing bog,  
And the arching alders I lie incog.

'The angler's fly  
Comes dancing by,  
But never a moment it cheats my eye;  
For the hermit trout  
Is not such a lout  
As to be by a wading boy pulled out.



'King of the brook,  
 No fisher's hook  
 Fills me with dread of the sweaty cook;  
 But here I lie,  
 And laugh, as they try;  
 Shall I bite at their bait? No, no, not I.

'But when the streams,  
 With moonlight beams,  
 Sparkle, all silver and starlight gleams,  
 Then, then look out  
 For the hermit trout;  
 For he springs and dimples the shallows about,  
 While the tired angler dreams.'

"The words are not much; but O! how exquisite was that music! Cypress. It was like the mellow tone of a soft harp!"

"Jewsharp, ha-a?" accorded long John: "that's a nice kind o' music. I'm told they have 'em large, down to York, and use 'em in meeten. How'st?"

"Yes, 'tis so, John, they do. But let me get through with my story. After the syren had finished her tune, she began playing with her companion again. Thinks I to myself, 'old speckled-skin, I should like to have you in my basket: such a reverend old monarch of the brook is not to be caught every day in the year. What say you for a fresh worm, this morning?' So I shortened my rod, and run it behind me, and let the dobber fall upon the water, and float down with the hook to the log where the old fellow and the mermaid were disporting. His love for the lady did not spoil his appetite. He bagged my worm, and then sprung at my float, and cut. I jerked back, and pulled in, and then he broke water and flounced. The mermaid saw that he was in trouble, and dashed at my line, broke it short off, and then took up the trout and began to disengage the hook from his gills. I had no idea of losing my hook and my trout, besides one of Lentner's best leaders (that cost me half a dollar), for any woman fishy or fleshy, however good a voice she might have. So I broke cover and came out. The moment she caught glimpse of me, she screamed, and dropped the trout and ran. Did you ever see a deer flash through a thicket? She was gone in an instant—



"Gone like the lightning, which o'er head  
Suddenly shines, and ere we've said  
Look! look! how beautiful! 'tis fled."

"Compelled by an irresistible impulse, I pursued. Down the brook, and through the brake, we went, leaping, and stooping, and turning, and swimming, and splashing, and I, at least a half a dozen times, stumbling and falling. It was but at intervals, as the brook made its longest bends, that I could catch a glimpse of the fugitive nymph, and the last time I put my eager eye upon her, she had stopped and was looking back, with both her hands crossed upon her bosom, panting, and apparently exhausted. But as I again broke upon her sight, she started and fled. With fresh ardor I pressed on, calling to her, and beseeching her to stop. I pleaded, promised, threatened, and called the gods to witness that my intentions were honorable, and that I would go and ask her mother first if she did not live too far off. In the desperation of my entreaties I talked a little Latin to her, that came into my head, apropos, and which was once used by another \*gentleman in a similar case of Parthian courtship:—Parthian?—Yes, that is a correct word, for, O! what arrows did the beauty of the flying nymph shoot into my soul! Telling her that she might depend upon my honor, and all that, I continued—

"At bene si noris, pigeat fugisse: morasque  
Ipsa tuas damnes, et me retinere labores—

that is to say, boys, according to Bishop Heber's translation—

"If you knew me, dear girl, I am sure you'd not fly me;  
Hold on half an hour, if you doubt, love, and try me.

But, alas! the assurance and the prayer added fresh pinions to her wings. She flew, and despairingly I followed, tearing my hands and face with the merciless brambles that beset my way, until, at last, a sudden turn brought me plump up against the bridge upon the turnpike, in the open fields, and the mermaid

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\*Polyphem to Gal or Met 13.808.





was nowhere to be seen. I got up on the railing of the bridge, and sat there weary, wet, and sad. I had lost my fish, left my rod a mile off, and been played the fool with by a mongrel woman. Hook, fish, leader, heart, and mermaid, were all lost to me forever. 'Give me some drink, Titinius,' or Daniel, which I take to be the correct English translation. I feel melancholy and mad to think of it, even now."

#### ONE MORE FOR THE LAST

The islands came in sight again, and ho! land! and Raynor Rock!

Glad enough was I to hear our bow grind the sand near Raynor's hut, on the evening succeeding our court's last night's entertainments. Ned Locus had come in, and Peter Probasco was smoking his usual short pipe, and the boys had some fresh fish and "things accorden." Zoph and I had had a hard pull, and we were bay-salted and shivering, but not so tired as to prevent us from bringing up a good bunch of brant. More of them, and a few of the black ducks, and sheldrakes, and that goose, anon.

"That's a lie, mister, that story you told t'other night. Have my doubts, it's all a lie. I've said it."—Such was Peter's judgment.—"Mr. Locus, you dreamt that sometime or other."

"Stick it out, Ned," said I, "why the fellow is trying to get angry!" and Ned actually had worked himself into such a state of feeling, that between the excitement of the story, and the soft impeachment of its veracity, and his liquor going down the wrong way, his face was suffused, and seven or eight globules of eye-water ran a race for the goal of his pea-jacket upper button.

"My friend," he at last rejoined, "you're mighty civil. Quite complimentary, forsooth. Do you suppose that I could undertake to coin a story so minute, and particular, and specific—so coherent and consistent in all its parts, so supported by internal and circumstantial evidence—"

"So ingeniously stolen from Ovid," interrupted I.

"*'Et tu brute,'* Cypress!"



"I make no doubt it's all true, mostly," said Daniel. "I've been by the bridge, and seen the place where Mr. Locus sot, when he came out."

"Well, gentlemen, what's the unbelievable part of the story? You don't deny the brook, or doubt its being inhabited by mermaids, do you? Then why shouldn't I be as likely as anybody else to see one?"

*"Festina lente,"* cried I.

"Not so fast, I pray thee," said the quiet Oliver. "I admit the brook, but I deny thy eyesight. Thy water-nymph lived but in thy brain, she is the offspring of thy dreams only—none but pagan priests and poets, and dreamy boys, and Quaker sea-captains, have seen the creature of fancy, called a mermaid."

"Why, Oliver! you infidel! Do you deny the Oceanides, the Nereides and Naiades, the Limnades and Potamides—"

"No such families in the island, d—d if there is," cried Peter.

"Have you never heard of Galatea and Amphitrite, Melita, and Leucothoe, and Thetis, Calypso, and glorious Arethus—?"

Peter—"Never heard of such people before."

Oliver—"Vile incarnations—the false deities of the old heathen poets. Too much antiquity hath made thee mad. Ned, or rather, too much deviltry hath made thee a quiz."

"He don't quiz me," said Daniel, with a compression of his lips that said "I know too much." "I don't know 'bout carnations and deities, or old poets, and I reckon I don't believe iniquity ever made Mr. Ned Locus mad, but what I know I know. Sam Biles is my wife's cousin's aunt's sister's brother-in-law, and he's been a sealer. Sam knows. Sea's is nothen but nigger mermaids, as Sikas said last night, or night afore. Sam told me he see 'em often together, and the mermaids licked 'em and kicked 'em about jist as they was amind to. They caught one one day, but she played the devil among the sailors, and the captain chucked her overboard.— Shaa!



why Jim Smith see a mermaid once down to Gilgoa inlet, ridden a sea-horse—don't you b'lieve it?—ask Jim."

"Ah! Daniel, Daniel," said Ned, "They're a set of unbelievers—don't try to persuade them."

"Shut up. Shut up, boys. Change the subject. Here; will you smoke?" said Raynor, producing some short stub pipes, and an old segar-box stuffed with tobacco.

It has always been our rule that, "when we are at Rome, we must do as the Romans do." So, it is to be recorded, that we comitted, or rather submitted to, that sin. We smoked.





## APPENDIX B

### STOOLS AND BATTERIES

SENTIMENT OF J. CYPRESS, JR.

1839

"Whither, midst falling dew,  
While glow the heavens with the last steps of day,  
Far, through their rosy depths, dost thou pursue  
Thy solitary way!"

WE wonder if the Poet ever got any answer to that question. We will bet a bag of buckshot that the water-fowl to whom the interesting interrogatory was addressed, was out of sight, and out of the sound of its echo, before the spoken sentimentality ran up against a mark of interrogation. "Whither," aye, "*whither* should a duck go, in the age of percussion caps, batteries, and patent cartridges? Under what upper cloud may "the fowler's eye" mark in "distant flight" his "figure floating," "vainly," or without power to do him "wrong" or his fowler self, justice? The bird, which the bard apotheosised, must have been either close by, or afar off. If he was near, he could have been talked to, or shot at, according to the taste of the spectator, and there would then have been no gammon about "vainly the fowler's eye," if he was too far off, and only "painted on the crimson sky," then neither goose-shot nor poetical questions could have touched a feather on his ear.

Let us pray to be forgiven by all just admirers of the thoughtful music from which we have adopted the entablature of our present madness, if we have seemed to borrow,—God save the word! when could we repay!—steal—look at—with any sort of levity,—the choice-culled flowers of phrase that sculpture those sweet dreamings of Bryant. They are



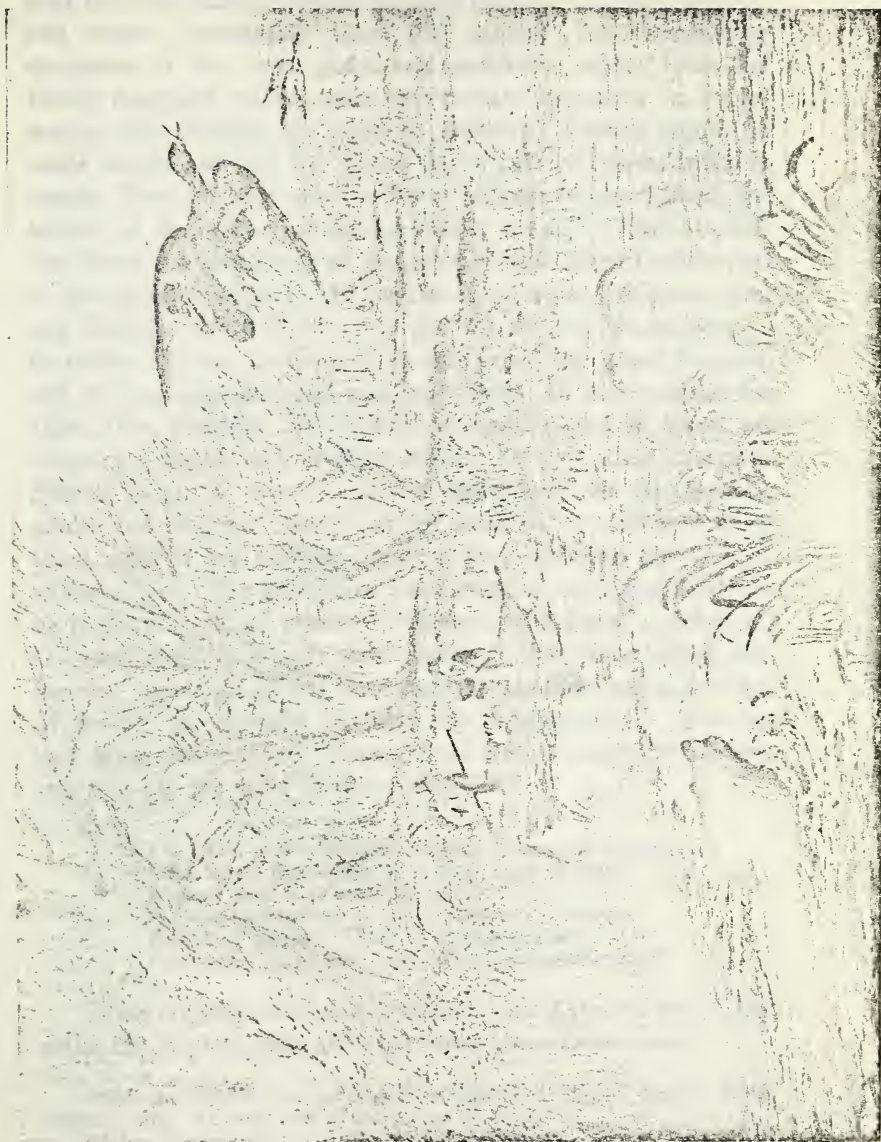
mournful philosophy, reasoning grief, imagination with feet.—Sense, heart, mind, flight. That brings us to the subject of ducks.

Talk of “flights,” and you will remember straightway old Drayton:—

“The duck and mallow first the falconer’s only sport,  
Of river flights the chief,”—

Permit us, dear reader, to call your attention, for a few moments, to the flight of the mallard, or shoveller—which, we know not—in the precedent picture. If thou art blind, yet hast shot heretofore, know that the engraving exhibits, water, sky, bushes, hassocks, two ducks in trouble, a boat, one man with a setting pole, and another with a gun, in the bow. If thou *BE* blind, thou hast not lost much, for we do not hold the picture dearly. Two very-gentle-men have come out, at three hours after sunrise, to shove for crippled birds of any nation or species, black or white, infidel or christian, grasseater or crabcannibal. They are of the class of people who take their comfort while they shoot. Their clothes are accurate and comely fits. The gentlemen with the pole, shoves with his coat on, buttoned up. Doubtless, they will knock over the invalid who flutters in the rear. It will be a merciful certainty, if the shooter stands firm, and holds right. The wounded one winnows the air weakly. Those birds had flown to the upgushing fountains of the fresh meadows, and the healing creek-greens, to cure their stricken pinions, and sides sore with lead spent to sting them, in the lower bays;—not killed, but feverish after a hard experimental blow, struck by some patient point-shooter, who had begun to be tired of waiting for a company to wheel up nearer to his stool. That wooden parallelogram, called a scow, chiefest for a trout-pond, cannot accomplish an original death;—unless a spring of teal, or a river broadbill, lie in close security behind some straggling patch of rushes, in the direct track of the intended water road. Yet let us not do injustice to the pretty picture. It shews, how, in a quiet way, a lover of pure air and kaleidiscopical colors, may





WILD DUCK SHOOTING IN A SWAMP





float down an ebbing stream, through channel-enclosing bushes, and sedges trespassing upon the ancient but diminishing dominion of the river gods, and suddenly startle from his falsely imagined safety, some unfortunate speculator in water-weeds, who thought his weak or shattered fortune would be made sound and fat by "going in." One of these ducks is clearly "lame." The other looks as though he was taking the benefit of the wild-fowl absent debtor act.— (That act differs from the enactment of the human New York Legislature, in one peculiar respect. In the one case, if the fowl owes you any feathers, or flesh, and can get out of your jurisdiction—or rather *Collineo* diction—he is safe; and may grant, bargain, sell, devise, bequeath, and run away from, all and singular his right, title, principal and interest in and to, and so forth, his temporary home and feeding spots. In the other case, the Sheriff is apt to form a *strong attachment* for the feeding places and singular chattels of the abscondant, and hold on to them, against his assignee, with a love "passing the love of women.")— The gentlemen have made a call upon him: but he is "out,"—out of reach. Whither is thy flight, good fowl? Of what shell-bank wert thou cashier? "Whither, midst *falling due*" notes, of which (knowing thy business place, and full of trust), we thought we held the substance?— Thou art lost, gone, etherealized, silvered over with a cloudy dinner set, and wilt set thy table in other waters!

"Yes, thou hast vanished, singing, from our sight!

So, must this earth be lost to eyes of thine:

Around thee is illimitable light.

Thou lookest down, and all appears to shine

Bright as above! Thine is a glorious way,

Pavilioned all around with golden spreading day."

How crippled fowl will †*Biddleize* and §*Swartwoutize*, and make the fowlers who are after them d—n their eyes!

†Nicholas Biddle was president of Bank of United States, Philadelphia, 1829. It went out of existence in 1836.

§John Swartwout was director of Manhattan Bank, New York, 1802. He fought a duel with DeWitt Clinton, July 30, 1802. Robert Swartwout fought a duel with Richard Riker in 1802.



"The pale purple even  
 Melts around thy flight;  
 Like a star of heaven  
 In the broad day light,

Thou art unseen, and yet I hear thy shrill delight."

No matter. There are ducks enough left, not so flighty, and with whom we can, easier, talk, in plain sight. Who doubts the assertion? If it be he who goes to Audubon's exhibition, and judges from that heterogeneous mixture of fish, flesh, and Indian skulls, what the glorious bays of Matowacs\* can produce, in this present, existing November, of Anseric and Anatic providence; or he who tries to assimilate or to reconcile the classifications of the proudest ornithological grammarians—Latham—Buffon—Bewick—Wilson—Audubon—and all the rest,—into any sort of society, of which the members may be identified by some possible nomenclature without an alias, or without a doubt expressed as to their family title;—men that call the American gander "*Anas Canadensis*," instead of "*Anser*," forgetting those Roman "hawknkers," worthy of a classic name, who saved the empire treasury from the rapacious Gauls;—then, we pray thee, friend, come with us, and look at the streaming squadrons, crucking, quacking, whistling and perutting in the Great South bay of Long Island. The most accurate images,—and those of Audubon—*bird Prometheus*—almost live, are faint copies of the rushing glories of the bay. No one can paint like Goddess Nature. Break thy pallet, tear thy canvas, thou mortal who dare presume.

Knowest thou Jim Smith?—James X. Smith,—called by

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\*For the best history of Matowacs, or, as it is generally called, "the State of Long Island," see the comprehensive, minute, and excellent book of B. F. Thompson, Esq., lately published. No islander, or island-frequenter, has his library complete without it. There is hardly an inhabitant of the three counties, unless he be very insignificant, who cannot find out in this accurate Register of things public and private, who his great-grandfather was,—which is a great thing, now-a-days, to know,—or who of the family were indicted for witchcraft, or whipped for theft, or promoted to the ermine; and where they lie, and what their epitaphs were. It is a book meritorious in another respect: it not only compromises the annals of private families, but of concurrent public actions. There is timber enough in it to build twenty literary edifices. Friend, try to get a copy of it. Buy, don't borrow.





judicious distinction from some rascals, who, by paternal authority, have stolen his name, James *Xenophon* Smith?—Illustrious cognomen!—worthily won; as every angler well appreciates, who has perused the map of his "*Anabasis*" to Stephe. Sweesy's pond, and has moralized over the stumps where Jim and we once pitched our tents, long, long before "Yorkers" found out that trout floated there, and before Jim X. had learned that he could make monies out of frail travelling nature, by building a good ice-house near "The Sportsman's Hotel." James X. Smith's biography is yet to be written. He lives now, and we introduce him briefly. Ample provision will, unquestionably, be made in his will, for his eulogist. We name James X. as being the fortunate proprietor of one of the chiefly selected stopping haunts, and sallying ports, of all shooting visitors of Matowacs. You cannot mistake his house, if you hold up at the sign-post at the corner of Jerusalem lane and the South turnpike. It is a pious neighborhood. The name gives you confidence in that truth. Babylon, the mother of miscellaneous people, is nine miles farther east.

But what changing panoramas of vocal regiments of air-climbers will you not see shifting, with their living paintings, all singing in their own particular crochets, when you go out, in the early morning, striking the sleeping inlets with your oar, before the sun has waked up! Will you look into Wilson for an enumeration, or gloat over Audubon? Yet neither they, nor Bonaparte have told the names (for they never had their acquaintance), of all their familiar varieties. Probably the families have intermarried and crossed the breed, since those authors wrote, and new baptisms are to be sprinkled. Wilson was certainly never on Matowacs. He shot his own acquired specimens, at Egg Harbor and Cape May. The rest were sent to him, with an eel-spears-man's description, which he translated.

We are not learned, nor critical, which latter we might be without being instructed; but every bayman on Long Island, to whom you would read the ill-arranged *ordines*, *genera*, and





*species*, of Wilson, translating the Latin to him, and putting it into honest South-side dialect, would say "Pshaw! he hasn't got down one-half the different kinds of broadbill,—let alone other salt-water birds who hold their public meetings on our marshes!" But even in Wilson, you find twenty-odd enumerations of feather-floaters, who either strut by their own domiciles, or, occasionally, call in at the Squaw Islands, Linus' Island, or Wanzas flat, and are ready for the reception of visitors, who come in the shape of Youle's No. 3.

Let us take a skiff and put out and bless the abundance. It is three o'clock A. M. If thou art cold, and last night, slept too little (for reasons, which as a dear friend, loving thy usual abstinence, and chastising thee by silence, rather than by unnecessary recapitulation, we forebear to hint at), lie down in the bottom of the boat, in the dry salt-meadow grass which thy man will fix for thee, with thy head upon an air-cushion resting upon the bow-head, and sleep. Sleep! when birds are swimming in the skiff's pathway, and ducks *quack*, and brant *cronk*, and broad bill *prut* about thee? No: thy polar or oarsman, even if he had not read Shakespeare, would soon cry out to you "Sleep no more,"—or else, "Mister, I reckon there's fowl ahead—close by—take them as they rise."

Such a heart-stirrer and ambition-provoker, puts you on your knees, and you will try to see through the dark. How queer! we bend our bodies upon our knees when we pray to be saved; and yet we often kneel, in the same way, to destroy ducks! When are our prayers most earnest?—Don't think of it. Knees have dangerous associating reflections.

But you will by-and-by arrive at some jutting point, or thatchy island, where you may lie securely hid, wrapped up in the warm envelopments of sedge-grass and your overall, and wait for the peeping daylight to set the various tribes of ducks to their works of travel and diving. Happy wretches! who have nothing to do but to fly, and to feed, and be loved, and shot,—killed without notice, without lingering sickness, or surgical torment. Yet they, many of them, have their ails, and aches; and the inexperienced amateur, shooting when they



fly in his eyes, and the old leather-head batterer straining a broken musket at a distance immeasurable but by a fowl, has planted many a shot-wound needlessly, by accident, in the side of a straggler, or luck-loser of the flock.

But thou art at thy hiding-place now, and thy poler—polar star of thy existence, if thou knowest not the road, and how to pull, and he fall overboard,—is setting out his stools.

If thou be inexperienced, thou mayest look into all the dictionaries that have ever been collated, and we hold the last (Richardson's, the poorest, and a great humbug, yet it comes nearer to our taste in its illustration of this word), and thou wilt not learn what the sporting meaning of "stool" is. To save the trouble of distant reference and inquiry, we will therefore certify and explain that "stools," in shooting phraseology, are graven images made in the likeness of geese, brant, and ducks, before which the hassock-skulking adventurer bows down and worships—not the graven images—but the providence that permits the living squadrons at whom he shoots, to be cheated by the false colors which he has hung out, to persuade them to come in. How many—many—honorable villains, might be indicted for obtaining ducks under "false pretences." The district attorney of Queen's might soon make his fortune, if he would only do his duty. Stools, to talk plain American, are wooden devices of the shape, size, and complexion of the fowl you wish to subdue from the upper air. Sculptor and painter are employed in their manufacture. Jim X. Smith's boys unite and body forth the sister arts. Let them set out a congregation of stool for thee, and thou wilt for ten minutes cry out "there's a bird," fast as guns can be reloaded, and shoot every stool to pieces. The old man, himself, was not slow at sculpture. We remember one April day—(it was the first, and the old man wanted his revenge on us for some innocent devil-play),—when lying in Goose-Creek, after sheldrakes, Jim suddenly got up, and wrapping his pea-coat around him, stepped from the boat to the marsh, and said "he believed he'd take a walk, and see if there wasn't any black ducks sitting in that pond down there,"—somewhere.





He went. After a quarter of an hour's travel he returned, and with all the solemnity of a regular cheater, observed that "he reckoned he see a crippled faawl sittin down on the edge of that are pint." "I'll go after him," exclaimed our companion, who had in the meantime, with poor luck like our own, called to give us a visit of condolence, in another skiff. "No, no;" cried the excellent Jim X., "I want that fowl in our boat. I found him first, and Mr. Cypress is entitled to the shot. You can come along, and if he misses, you can kill after him." And so we went—slop, sink, stick, jump, through and over a wet, soft meadow. At last we heard the welcome intelligence,—“Stop, Mr. Cypress, there he is: don't you see him?—just a leetle north-east of that bunch of bushes on the edge of the bank?” We looked: there he was.

“Jim, that's a dead bird. He can't rise.”

“Yes, he can; and if you don't shoot it sittin, he'll tumble off into the water, and dive, and there'll be an end of him. Shoot, shoot, and if he rises take him with the other barrel; stand ready, Mr. B——.”

We shot. The bird sat and grinned at us.

“You've killed him—you've killed him, cried Jim,—“don't shoot your other barrel.”

It is not a *great* grief to renew; but we had rather tell the story ourselves: and it was April day, and it was James X. So we went and picked up our game, *one of his aforesaid stools*, which he had privately secreted under the folds of his great coat, and carried out to help the solemnization of April-fool day, in the South bay. We have not had our revenge yet. James X. is wary, and moves out of the country on the last day of March. But retribution is in pickle for him; and it will be funny.

This simple incident in our biography illustrates the subject of stools. They are miserable wooden pictures of bay birds, whose distant view brings enchantment to the living jaunters, when they dip in here, and who are apt to look at the arrival-book of the public places of “entertainment for ducks,” and stop where their friends are; and will, of course,





call in and say they're "happy to see them." Alas! how many credulous, ruined hearts, of human structure, have been pierced, and stricken, bleeding, by a similar profession of fond love, and good feeding-ground! The stools are anchored off, some twenty or thirty yards, held safely by a brick or angular stone, tied to a string attached to a nail driven in their middle, and there they float, like independent slaves tied to their desk or counter, bobbing up and down and looking "happy—very happy," but yet unable to take the wings of the morning, or of the moonlight, and to fly away. The fresh flocks just arriving, and not knowing where to go, following example, as they imagine, whirl, with congratulatory clang, into the expected welcome of their fancied neighbors, only to be met by the rough, harsh, remorseless *bang, bang*, with which "the obtainer of ducks under false pretences," lies hiding to destroy them.

They used to have another device "down East" called "machines." Dannel Post, Ike Rose, and the Alibi's, were, if not the inventors, at all events, the constant practisers and mechanists, in the time of the prevailing architecture to which we refer. Let no man flatter himself that that order of art is beneath his notice. The genius of the structure itself sneers at the Corinthian, speaks with cold respect to the Doric, and calls itself the *Collinc-onatic*. But those old batteries are decaying; for the Legislature has enacted a law, forbidding worship in such temples. \*General Jones, of Queen's, Senator and nobleman, noble-man, as a Republican could wish to be, takes the responsibility of the constitutionality of the imposed penalty. Fifty dollars for every bird shot out of a battery! All honor to him if the law can be enforced. Whether it be a law just and sustainable upon the ground of "equal rights," or the "sumptuary" prerogatives of law-making power, we have not yet made up our conclusion. Our judgment is only doubtfully retained, having been spoken to on both sides, without an ad-

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\*Henry O. Floyd-Jones.



vanced fee from either; therefore, we decline being anxious to precipitate an opinion.

We must confess, however, that, personally, we have lain in those coffins, not dead, nor dying, but the cause of death in many two-legged people with feathers on. But we have always had doubts about the morality—the mor—what!—what is morality, as applied to ducks? A duck's safety lies in his wings and feet, not in acts of the Legislature. He can spring yards enough, at a single leap, to cheat his enemies; fly two miles in a minute, to overtake his friends; and dive, and scramble, and hide, better than the cunningest Seminole. Yet, perhaps, *our* ducks need protection. Perhaps we ought to repair our house, and make things comfortable, or the tenants will move away. There is a great deal in that consideration. Years ago, the southern bays of Matowacs were brilliant with sparkling plumage, and bright eyes of birds of every hue and shape. Now!—Look for the intended progenitors of a “long line of descendants,” in the kitchens of people who go to Fulton Market. The marshes which were joyfully obstreperous, even in summer, are now silent. The banquet halls of the feeding-flats are deserted. Instead of taking board, or hiring a house and lot, and making themselves comfortable, as in old times; the ducks, now, are only travellers, who just stop and take a drink, where they see the proper sort of *bar*. It is natural, and therefore excusable, that they stop at those Hotels where they see the most people congregated: for a congregation argues good patronage; and good patronage argues good beverage.

This brings us back to the subject of machines. A machine, or battery, is a wooden box of the necessary dimensions to let a man lie down upon his back, just tightly fitting enough to let him rise again.—(It is not unlike that box which we have all got to be shut up in at the end of the chapter of our lives). It is fitted with wings of board horizontal, and so sustained and nailed as to lie flat upon the water without sinking, the top fringing, and the sides keeping you unwet by the surrounding and over-floating tide, which gurgles around your ears, and just does not come in, because the weight of stones





laid upon the wings, accurately adjusts the sinking depth of the box. This receptacle for the body of the fowl slayer, is anchored in some middle bay, where in its shallow waters, the birds have a "haunt," and fly to feed upon the thick-growing crops of *Valisneria*, and other goodly sea-wheat, far from any point or plashy hassock, where, with their constant experience, they might fear some skulker hid. The battery is anchored. The wings, about five feet by seven, are covered carefully with sand and carelessly scattered sea-leaves, and there is thus built an artificial sand-bar in the middle of the wide, and to the credulous victim, seemingly safe, bay. You get into this machine, and lie down and watch. Your man disposes the stool-birds to your leeward, and sails away to stir up flocks miles off, and drive them towards you, leaving you in the waste of waters, where a little leak might sink and anchor you at the bottom,—fun for ducks to dive and flop at,—to lie, cheat, counterfeit, and kill. That is "shooting out of a machine." The new arriviers coming in from sea, see the supposed happy family you have around you, afar off, and set their willing wings, fatigued with long exertion, and come, crucking musical "good mornings," among your false masques. Then, then!—as they swoop in thick company before they settle,—you rise from under the water, like a sudden demon, and scatter thunder and lightning and death among the deceived and ruined unfortunates!

Plant these machines all along the southern coast of Matowacs, from Gowanass bay to Montauk point, and can any man wonder that James X. (who hasn't got any proper spot to set out a battery), should sometimes say that "ducks is scace?"

Mercy on us! we came near expressing an opinion! But we are not committed. And lo! we have prosed a long half hour, almost, and have not said a word we intended to. Dear reader, we will usurp no more. Talk, now, thyself.





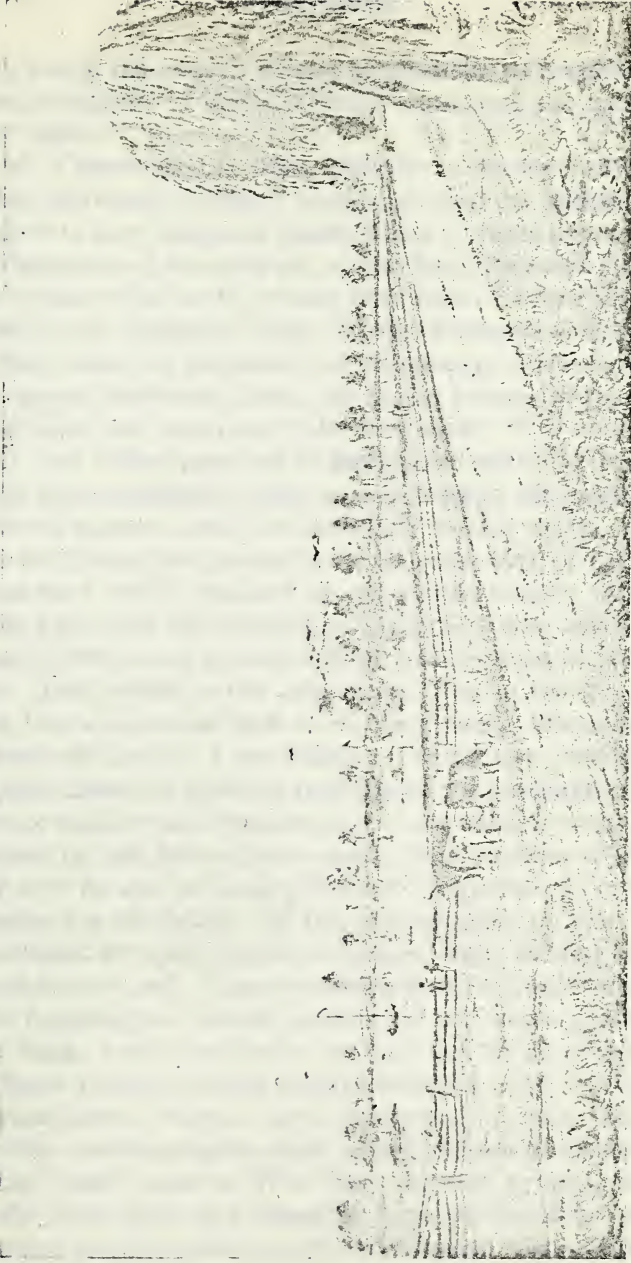
## NOTE

The writer when a boy, say from 1846 to 1851, well remembers \*Jim Smith and his hotel. Directly opposite on the east corner of Jerusalem Road was a general country store which was operated by members of the Jerusalem Quaker family of Joneses, subsequently run by Samuel and John Post from Jerusalem. The bar at Jim Smith's was quite unique. It was crescent shaped and fully five and one half feet in height, so that no one could lean upon it or hardly look over it. A shelf ran around the inside part of the top which was wide enough to hold some glasses, a bottle, and a pitcher of water. I stopped at this place many many times when out driving with my grandfather before 1851. My honored ancestor, after whom I was named, and who was the owner of Brick House brook, always drove a good horse, and when on the road would generally make this spot one of his stopping places. On driving up to the stoop, Uncle Jim would come out, and after passing the time of day, would say, "General, what will you have?" The reply to this question was, "Well, Jim, you may give me a little gin and sugar." I would here say that my grandfather got the gin and I got the sugar. After a while some of the gentry of the county or contiguous one of Suffolk, would drive up, and a drink or two more was partaken of, after which the respective ones would make a start east for home. You may rest assured that it was a brush the whole distance. While I hung on to the seat of the buggy, my grandsire would manipulate the reins, as he was very proficient in this regard, and we were not the last one in the crowd when Fort Neck, my ancestral home, was reached. The mare that he drove was a chestnut blaze face bobtail. She had been nicked and docked in our own barn and was a beautiful animal. Her name was Kate. She had quite a little

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\*The author attended school with Jim Smith's two sons at the old school house on the turnpike nearly opposite the old hotel, Jerusalem South in 1849. The teacher's name was Walworth. He would send a boy down to the adjacent swamp to cut a gad (whip) and then lace him with it on his return.





MASSAPEQUA LAKE, MASSAPEQUA, LONG ISLAND

Created by the damming of Brick House Brook in 1837



speed, and at the owner's demise in 1851, she was retained by his only daughter. I drove her many times, and also rode her under saddle.

Mr. Cypress died in 1841. Relative to the mermaid story so ably portrayed by him I would say that the episode was supposed to have happened before David S. Jones dug out for the Massapequa Lake, and put up the long earthwork dam in 1836-37 that exists at the present time, both of which are now owned by the Brooklyn Water Works, having been acquired by them from the progenitor of the present owners of the Massapequa House and lands, the House having been erected at the same time when the Lake was made. If I remember rightly, my father gave me to understand that the turnpike road as now constituted, which runs in front of the large lawn of the old mansion, and then west over the big bridge, which spans the Fluent and parallel with the south side of the high embankment, which dammed up the brook, thereby forming the big Lake, was the creation of David S. Jones, which was planned by him so as to form a large lawn in front of his new house. Both visible at this date, 1914. Now at this late year of my life, scenes come back to me very plainly, discernible in my boyhood days, so I can imagine that the new road began at a point about one hundred feet west of the southwest corner of Grace churchyard, Massapequa, running directly west, close to where the old Brick House stood, (torn down in 1836) or really over its site, or running through the garden and orchard adjoining the old house. In fact several apple or pear trees have existed for many years on the spot, really locating where the old house stood. Then continuing past the pond described in the foregoing to the west, passing the old family graveyard West Neck, within twenty-five to fifty feet of the graves of Mr. Jones' father, who was interred here November, 1819, and his grandfather, August, 1779, connecting a short distance west with the old turnpike which passed in front of the ancient William Jones' house at West Neck, erected 1733-35, which was the birth place and ancestral home of David S. Jones. The house and graveyard are still in existence. Family grave-





yards were not located in those days directly on the great highway, as this one appeared after the new road was laid out, all of which is plainly discernible to a passer-by at the present time. They were placed in some obscure part of the estate, where it was not likely to be molested by posterity, except without a good motive in their behalf, and especially by any act of their own kin and blood. This old graveyard most likely was originally laid out in 1779, one half to one acre in extent, evidently at a location quite a little distance south of the original old turnpike road. Its projectors never for a moment conceived the idea that a new turnpike would ever have been compiled so as to be directly adjacent to same.

Now from the mermaid legend I am enabled to strongly draw upon my imagination as to the locality of the *old* road where it ran to, before being deflected at the point referred to in front of the church yard. It likely ran a shade northwest right in front of the *old* schoolhouse where the writer attended school 1845-47, then to the west over land. That was subsequently (1847-48) taken in and made part of the old Massapequa Race Track. Continuing west from there on a line say one hundred feet from the Big House to the Brick House Brook, where it crossed the bridge (as described in the mermaid narration) that spanned the stream, which he so ably describes as having followed. I can well remember seeing the big lake, which with the brook covers over one hundred acres of land, entirely denuded of water, so that you could walk across to Marys Island, located off the west shore. Now in the centre of the lake, winding toward the east, about opposite the big house above referred to, coursed the channel of the brook, over which a bridge had been erected, and when the water was out of the lake, this bridge was plainly visible. I crossed it many times in my early days. This bridge was never removed during the incumbency of the original, or family owners of same, anyway prior to the years 1854 to 57. When the lake filled up again, it entirely overflowed the bridge, the water at that point being fully five feet in depth. After crossing the old structure, the *original* road ran directly west,



passing the Jones (West Neck) homestead, which faced it. This record may be of great interest to old Queens County residents, as well as to those who are the present owners of the property. Although drawn fairly clear, it is for the most part imaginative. I will here end this part of my notes by saying that the last trout caught by me in the Massapequa lake was a "corker," so termed in the vernacular of the natives. It weighed just three pounds. I never heard of one being caught in my day out of the Long Island trout ponds that weighed as much as this one did. This catch was in the fall of 1851 or the spring of 1852, and I hooked him directly over this old submerged bridge on the east side of the lake, trolling from a rowboat.

Referring to the old Baymen, Uncle John Verity, Obadiah Verity, John Alibi and Parmenus Raynor (Venus), the first one of this combination was very highly respected, and in 1851 when General Thomas Floyd-Jones died, his children presented a knife which was greatly prized by the old possessor, having in it over thirty different parts, to Uncle John as a token of their esteem for him, and in memory of his old friend, their father. The writer was a witness of this presentation, which occurred late in 1851.

Now as to Obadiah Verity, who was called "Diah." The characteristic part of his make up was demonstrated by his slowness of articulating when conversing, and one of the incidents told of him manifested this idiosyncrasy in the plainest manner, it being related by a member of the family who witnessed the occurrence, or by the participant, who thought it a good joke upon himself. I likely heard of this incident fully sixty-five years ago. The other member of the case beside the redoubtable Diah was the Honorable David S. Jones, who was a son of Judge Samuel Jones, Recorder of New York, 1789, who was styled Father of the New York Bar, and brother of Major William Jones of Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, previously referred to in these chapters where horses are the prominent or distinctive part thereof. David S. Jones was quite a prominent man in his day. He was Corporation Counsel of New





York in 1812-13, and at one time, 1797, private secretary to Governor John Jay. His city home was number 2 Bond Street. In appearance he was called a handsome man, being very particular in his apparel, in fact quite an exquisite. He was married three times, his last wife being a daughter of Governor DeWitt Clinton. \*He took quite a part, a prominent one, in the duel which occurred in 1802 between George L. Eacker and Philip Hamilton, residents of New York, being the latter's second. The trouble which brought on the duel originated at the Park Theatre, where Mr. Eacker imagined that Hamilton and his friends were making him a subject of ridicule, which was resented by his sending a challenge to young Hamilton, who was son of Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton accepted same with alacrity and immediately sent for David S. Jones to act as his second. The duel took place at Weehawken in New Jersey and Hamilton was hit by a ball, which went through his right side, passed through his body, and lodged in his arm. He died July 23, 1802. While residing in his summer residence at Massapequa, a beach party would be projected by some of the neighboring families, Mr. Jones being an invited guest, and Diah Verity being employed by them to sail the boat, as he knew every channel, sand bar and current in the Bay. While on one of these excursions, likely over to Gilgo, Mr. Jones very indiscreetly stood upon the gunwale of the sail boat, at which moment Diah deemed it advisable to make a turn, so in his drawling manner of speech, he lets out "Mistarr Joones weare goin' tew gybe." Before he got as far as going, he swung the tiller over, and around came the boat and over came the boom, knocking Mr. Jones overboard. Surely he was hopping mad at his dilemma, and when he got in the boat again, being an adept swimmer, he gave it to Diah in a most classical manner, likely with a few adjectives thrown in on the side to make it more expressive, telling him that next time he wanted to gybe, to kindly commence his discourse half an hour before he proposed to begin his act. As a

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\*In the work "History of City of New York" by Mrs. Martha J. Lamb and Mrs. Burton Harrison.





boy I heard Diah express himself many times, and I always felt like saying "spit it out Diah."

David S. Jones died in East Fifteenth Street, New York, May 10, 1848, his remains being interred in St. Marks Churchyard in the Bowery.

Old slobbering Scudder was another character of the times, who might be termed a "Genus Hobby." He was a peddler of North Carolina sweet potatoes some months in the year. These were considered quite a luxury, as none of them were grown on Long Island. Scudder would procure his wagon load at Brooklyn, and sell them as he meandered along the road, so that by the time he reached South Oyster Bay, his load was quite depleted. But if he only had a half peck left in the corner of the bottom of his wagon, he would still continue to call out "Swit, Swit, Swit potatoes dam it" with the saliva pouring out both sides of his toothless mouth, and in other months he would peddle hard clams, by beginning to call out in a low voice one-quarter of a mile from any house, "Clic, Clic, Clic, Clic," his voice gradually increasing in volume, and by the time he got to the front gate the last "Clic" could be heard and "Clams dam it" come out in a sonorous cadenza.

On a \*muster roll of a company of detached militia under the command of Captain Thomas Floyd-Jones in the Second Regiment of New York State Infantry, commanded by Colonel Daniel Bedell from the second of September, 1814, to the eighteenth day of October, 1814, and the fifteenth of November, 1814, to the twenty-eighth of November, 1814, at Fort Green, Brooklyn, the following names are inscribed:

JOHN VERITY,  
OBADIAH VERITY,

JAMES SMITH,  
JAMES X. SMITH.

Full description of FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS which follow this folio:

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\*Presented by the author of this book June 10, 1901, to the Delancey Floyd-Jones Library, Massapequa, Long Island.



FIRST—A Copy of the *Original Patent* issued by Colonial Governor *Edmond Andros* 29th September, 1677, to Inhabitants of the Town of *Oyster Bay*, Long Island, Granting and Confirming all *Deeds* made to them from the *Indians*.

SECOND—A Copy of the *Original Patent* issued by Colonial Governor *Richard Nicolls* 3rd, November, 1666, to Inhabitants of the Town of *Huntington*, Long Island. Granting and confirming all *Deeds* made to them from the *Indians*. Copied 3rd August, 1769, and signed *S. Bayard* D. Secy.

THIRD—A Copy of the *Original Patent* issued by Colonial Governor *Dongan* 2nd of August, 1688, to Inhabitants of the Town of *Huntington*, Long Island, Granting and Confirming all *Deeds* made to them from the *Indians*.

FOURTH—A Copy of the *Original Patent* issued by Colonial Governor *Richard Nicolls* 5th of October, 1694, to Inhabitants of the Town of *Huntington*, Long Island, Copied 19th June, 1771, and Signed *S. Bayard*. Granted by *William* and *Mary*. Copied 10th June, 1771, and Signed *S. Bayard*, D. Secy.

*Samuel Bayard, Jr.*, was Colonial Deputy Secretary 1769-71. His signature is a very peculiar one on these Copies, showing that he spelled his surname *Bauyard*, and the last letter *D* a capital, serving for last letter in his name as well as *D. Secy* (see illustration).

These Relic Manuscripts are owned personally by the author, being his heirlooms, the *Oyster Bay Patent* being 237 years old, and one of *Huntington* 248 years old; the others of *Huntington* 226 and 220 years old respectively.

The Copy of the *Original Patents* were made 143 to 145 years ago at a time about 1771, when the Town of *Oyster Bay* had the great Law-suit with *Jackson* and *Jones* families, as to the ownership of the meadow lands on the south side of the *Great South Bay* of *Long Island* opposite *Jerusalem South* and *Fort Neck*, extending to the ocean, which included *Gilgo Inlet*, *Wanzas Flats* and *Jones' Beach*. The contents of these



[illegible]



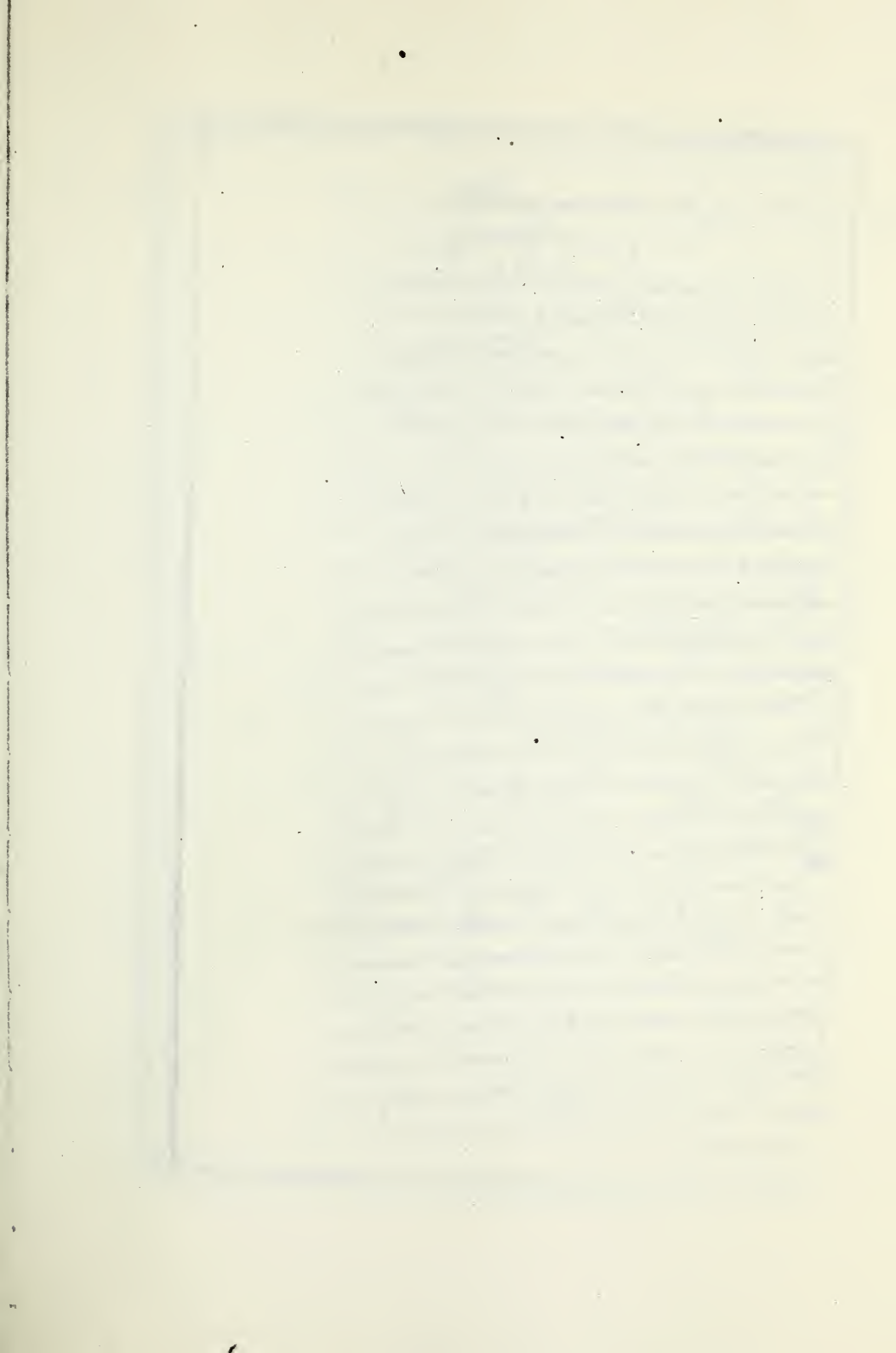


I have been thinking of writing to you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time. I have been thinking of writing to you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time. I have been thinking of writing to you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time.



and binding and dipping them five years of age except in  
acts of capital Highness: He is a Lieutenant of the  
Ship on the 21<sup>st</sup> Day of March unto such officer or officers  
as shall be appointed to receive the same Gift and may  
He and seal with the seal of the Province Secretary  
It is 29<sup>th</sup> Day of September in the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the King's  
Henry James, London 1677













Huntington, whatsoe ground or Islands, Bayes, or  
others, within the limits and bounds herein as yet  
(viz.) that is to say from a certain line or creek  
on the west, commonly called by the Indians, by the Name  
of Mahequaacks, and by the English, the said spring,  
to stretch Eastwards to Mahequaacks River, or the North,  
to the bounds by the sound, running betwixt Long  
Island and the maine, and on the South by the Sea,  
including there Nine several Neckes of Readers Ground,  
All which tract of land together with the 3<sup>d</sup> Neck the same  
belonging within the limits and bounds aforesaid and all  
or any of the same hereupon are to belong unto the  
said Company of Huntington, as also the Rivers, Harbours,  
Creeks, Quayses, Woodland Meadows, Pastures, &  
marshes, waters, lakes, fishing, fowling, hunting  
and shooting, And all other things, commodities,  
Privileges, and Benefits, to the said Lord and Company  
within the limits and bounds aforesaid mentioned several  
belonging or in any wise appertaining. To have, to  
hold, the said Lands and Neckes of Lands Benefits and  
Privileges, with their and every of their appurtenances  
and of every part and parcel thereof, to the said Gentles  
and their Associates to the proper use and behoof of the  
said Gentles and their Associates, their Heires Successors  
and Assignes for ever; And to do likewise during the same  
and to grant, unto the said Gentles and their Associates,  
their Heires Successors and Assignes, all such and so









grants by J<sup>es</sup> Tongan

Contract of selling Likut granted to them  
that J<sup>es</sup> Tongan bearing Pat. M. 2. 1. 1.  
of August 1688 recorded in Lib. Public. N<sup>o</sup> 1.  
760<sup>th</sup>

A certain River or Creeke on the West commonly called,  
by the Indians by the Name of Nackagackeck and by  
the English the cold Spring do stretch Eastward to  
Nequaqua River on the North to be bounded by the  
bound running betwixt Long Island and the Maine  
and on the South by the Sea including there nine  
several Tracts of Meadow Ground all which Tract of  
Land together with the said nine Tracts the same  
belong in within the bounds and Limits aforesaid,  
and all or any Plantations thereupon are to belong  
to the said Town of Huntington, as also all Harbours  
Hartors Creeks Quarries Woodlands Meadow Pastures  
Marshes Lakes Fishing Hawking hunting Fowling and  
all other profits, commodities, Emoluments and  
Hereditaments to the said Land and Premises within  
the Limits and Bounds aforesaid now described  
belonging or in anywise appertaining. And also  
serving to his most sacred Majesty offered his heirs  
and Successors all the Tracts of Lands & Lye to the  
South within y<sup>e</sup> Limits and Bounds aforesaid and  
in Lands to the Northward of the same y<sup>e</sup> remain  
unpurchased from the Native Indians anything

certific



contained herein to the contrary in any wise notwith-  
standing confirmed within the same bounds before writte

granted by William & Mary

Extract of Letters Patent granted to Joseph  
Bayley & others bearing Date the 3<sup>d</sup> October  
1694 Recorded in Lib. Patent. Vol. page 52. 1. &c

Whereas Richard Nicoll Esq<sup>r</sup> late Gov<sup>r</sup> of Newall of our  
Province of New York and Territories depending thereon  
in America did by a certain Deed or Bithat made with  
his date bearing Date the thirtieth day of November in  
the eighteenth year of the Reigne of our Royal Master  
Charles the second King of England and in the year of  
our said Gov<sup>r</sup> 1666 grant, sell, and confirm unto James  
W<sup>m</sup> Leveridge Robert Selby John Ketcham Thomas  
Ludamore Isaac Blane Thomas Jones and Thomas  
Nichols as Witnesses on behalf of themselves and their  
Assignes the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Town  
of Huntington their heirs Successors and Assignes  
all the Lands that already have been or hereafter shall  
be purchased for or on the behalf of the said Town of  
Huntington whether from the Native Proprietors or  
others within the Limits and Bounds herein expressed  
that is to say from a certaine River or Creek on the  
Westcommonty called by the Indians by the Name of  
Nackaquatch and by the English the cold spring to  
stretch Eastward to Nockaquack thence on the North side  
bounded



bounded by the Sea on the west by the Sea on the  
and the Maine and on the South by the Sea on the  
there nine severall Tracts of Land together with the  
Tract of Land together with the nine severall Tracts  
belonging within the Bounds and Limits afore-  
all or any Plantation thereupon are to belong to the  
said Town of Huntington as also all Harbours Rivers  
Creeks Quarries Woodland Meadows Pastures Marshes  
Waters Lakes fishing hawking hunting and fowling and  
all other Profits Commodities Emoluments and Re-  
mittments to the said Land and Premises within the  
Limits and Bounds afore-mentioned described belong-  
or in any ways appertaining. And therefore our loving  
Subjects Joseph Bayly, Thomas Nickes, Jonas Wood, John  
Wood, John Nickes, Thomas Brush, and John Williams in  
Behalf of themselves and the rest of our loving Subjects  
the Freeholders and Inhabitants of our said Town of  
Huntington Have by Petition presented unto Benjamin  
Hitcher our Captain Generall and Governour or Chief  
of our sayd Province of Newfort. and Dependencies therein  
whereon America, praye our Grant and Confirmation  
of the Premises soe as that the Lords and Countes  
of the sayd Town of Huntington shall in the said Co-  
mune not be taken after any manner of Manner  
that the said Town of Huntington shall in the said Co-





of our Island of Vassaw within our County of Suffolk  
being bounded on the West by a River called and  
known by the Name of Cold Spring a Line running  
South from the Head of the sayd Cold Spring to the South  
Sea and on the North by the Sound that runs between  
our sayd Id of Vassaw and the maine Continent and on  
the East by a Line running from the West syde of a River  
called and known by the Name of the fresh River to the West  
syde of Whitman Dale or Hollow from thence to a River  
on the South side of our sayd Island of Vassaw on the East  
syde of a Neck called Sumpawarwin and from the said  
River running South to the sayd South Sea

New York Secretory Office 17 June 1771 the  
aforewritten are true to the best of our knowledge

Examined by

of the said County

Attest  
I the Clerk of the County of Suffolk  
do hereby certify that the above  
written is a true and correct  
copy of the original  
of the said County

Witness my hand and seal  
this 17th day of June 1771



documents was very likely utilized as evidence conclusive, the suit thereby being decided in favor of the latter, viz: Jacksons and Joneses, by the *Supreme Court* of the Colony.

The Oyster Bay Patent also covers in its environs Hicksville, Salisbury Plains Race Track, Cold Spring Harbor and Beach on the north, and Jerusalem south, Fort Neck, South Oyster Bay, *Brick House Brook* and Massapequa Trotting Track on the south.

The Huntington Patents in their territory include in same *Babylon* and *Fire Island*.

On folio <sup>169</sup>215, referring to old bridges and new turnpike roads at Fort Neck, it is expressed as being for the most part imaginative. But the Illustrated Copy of Original Patents of Oyster Bay and Huntington, Long Island, are *not* a product of the author's conception, but the *actual* evidence of what they profess to prove beyond the *possibility of doubt*.

THE END.



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